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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Comments on Differences Among Groups

PM2606102291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 91 p4

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] The recent Nabulus incidents between Hamas supporters and Fatah supporters have been widely resented by the masses in the occupied territory. What measures have been taken to prevent a repetition of such incidents?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, there has been some misbehavior in the occupied territory by groups of youths who lack experience and awareness, but an exaggeration of such mistakes would only serve the enemy. We are trying hard to end such mistakes to prevent resentment among the population and indifference toward activities there.

Restoration of the intifadah's vigor is a top priority. Confrontation with the enemy requires united participation of all groups of the population. We are sure that our people both inside and outside the occupied territory are aware of the seriousness of the Israeli designs to usurp territory and build settlements to absorb hundreds of thousands of new immigrants. This demands everyone's constant steadfastness and resistance against these designs.

Regrettably, some groups in the occupied territory are acting irresponsibly, as though they were a high school students union competing with another, and not facing an occupation. There can be no doubt that these practices open breaches that the occupying enemy could exploit to the detriment of the intifadah and active participants.

[Shihab] Several appeals have been issued by the unified leadership urging the parties to the dispute to set their differences aside, but such appeals have only belatedly been successful. What does this show?

[Abu-Sharif] The leadership outside the occupied territory and its arm inside the territory—the unified national leadership—are still fully in control of the situation, but that does not negate the possibility of some groups trying to undermine that, for purely selfish reasons. Democracy undoubtedly grants any organization or group wide scope for activity.

We hope that everyone will heed the appeals made by the leaderships outside and inside the occupied territory, because the attempts to serve selfish group interests under occupation would not help the national struggle and would create loopholes for the enemy to exploit.

[Shihab] There have been calls for leadership changes within the PLO. What has been accomplished so far? Is there any possibility of a radical change in the near future?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, we need some positive change in the leadership frameworks—a change to pump fresh blood into the PLO's veins and to give the intifadah additional strength, particularly since we are at the most difficult, crucial, and serious stage.

A large number of ranks and leaderships are interested in this idea at this particular time. There are lively and healthy discussions within our inner circles about rejuvenating the PLO and a more efficient tackling of urgent national tasks.

Practical steps have been taken to revitalize the Palestinian armed forces. A large number of young officers have now emerged and an equal number of officers who have already served the Palestinian national cause have been transferred to the reserve forces.

[Shihab] There are those who believe that Bassam Abu-Sharif, for example, is one of those who have served a certain phase and policy that should be changed, and the same applies to others. What do you think?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that Palestinian democracy allows democratic change. Our leadership is an elected leadership. We are now preparing for a new National Council. The elections will be through that council.

We should not rule out the possibility of setting up the appropriate state institutions to tackle future political developments.

[Shihab] Has a date been set for the next Palestine National Council [PNC] session?

[Abu-Sharif] The committee in charge of making preparations will begin its meetings this month.

[Shihab] What is Hamas' share in the PNC?

[Abu-Sharif] Every establishment and organization has a right to be represented in the democratic process. The majority of PNC members belong to various unions, federations, and associations inside and outside the occupied territory where democratic elections take place. The representatives of engineers, students, women, workers, and writers are all elected and form the majority of PNC members. This democratic process guarantees the right of every organization or establishment to compete with other organizations. The PNC is not closed to anyone.

[Shihab] The Hamas request regarding its representation has been rejected by a PNC committee. Will this matter be resolved?

[Abu-Sharif] A certain percentage of PNC members represent the organizations. That percentage, though

small, is allocated to all Palestinian organizations on the basis of their size. Fatah, for example, has the biggest share of that percentage. Hamas has a right to be represented within that percentage through logical and realistic understanding. The realism I am talking about is one of practicality, not demagoguery. The size of its representation should be based on the size of its representation in the Palestinian unions or federations in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

[Shihab] What kind of peace do you expect from the international community?

[Abu-Sharif] We accept international law as a sound basis for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, more specifically, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. International law is represented by the following:

1. The principle stipulated in Resolution 181. That is, the principle of two states on the land of Palestine. Resolution 242, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967.

2. The Palestinians agree to a Palestinian state in the territories occupied in 1967.

3. The Palestinians recognize Israel's right to live within secure and internationally guaranteed borders.

4. There should be international guarantees for all the region's states, including the Palestinian state.

5. We are prepared to hold negotiations on security measures to grant reassurance to all states including Israel, and that includes the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces or UN observers on the borders between the two states, even if this deployment of forces and observers is to be on the Palestinian side of the border.

6. We are willing to draw up an agenda of all topics of common interest to be discussed during the negotiations.

7. The Palestinians agree to a short interim period during which the United Nations would be authorized to supervise the occupied territory and during which preparations are made for national independence.

8. We agree to free elections and a free referendum under the supervision of the United Nations or an independent international body to enable the people to determine their own future and national independence and to elect their representatives to a general legislative body. That body would include representatives of the entire Palestinian people.

9. We agree to direct negotiations with Israel under international supervision—be it UN, European, or U.S.-Soviet supervision.

[Shihab] There are constant reports about bad economic conditions in the occupied territory, despite the EC states' talk about aid to overcome that. How is that aid distributed, and is it enough?

[Abu-Sharif] The economic situation in the occupied territory has deteriorated considerably and has reached dangerous levels. This demands urgent measures by the United Nations and its Security Council.

We have asked a number of European states to put this issue on the agenda of the EC Council meeting scheduled for 28 June. An allocation of additional sums will be sought to rescue the Palestinians from this recent economic deterioration, particularly since the Israeli authorities prevent international organizations and European countries from extending aid to the Palestinians directly. They insist that the aid must come through Israeli establishments which exploit the aid for different purposes. That way the Palestinian people are denied international aid.

[Shihab] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that nobody is allowed to speak of special security or special conditions. This was a reference to Palestinian arms and the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon. In view of this, how do you see relations between the PLO and the Lebanese Government?

[Abu-Sharif] The contacts that we have had with President al-Hirawi and the contacts held between the PLO and Syria have greatly helped to clarify the PLO's views, which place all the PLO's resources at the disposal of the legitimate Lebanese authorities. We are willing to contribute, along with our Lebanese brothers, to anything that would restore sovereignty to where it belongs. We do not want to engage in side battles. The Palestine Liberation Army that is in Lebanon is part of the Palestinian presence, as in Syria, Jordan, or any other country, and its presence should be subject to the same controls as in the rest of the Arab countries.

[Shihab] How do you assess the PLO's relations with the European states?

[Abu-Sharif] We expect to resume meetings at ministerial level following the numerous meetings held between senior British Foreign Office officials and a number of Palestinian officials and following the meetings between Minister Hogg and some of our brothers from the leadership in the occupied territory.

The meeting with Prime Minister Andreotti in Rome last week was undoubtedly of special importance. I expect more activity on the European front.

[Shihab] What about the PLO's relations with the United States?

[Abu-Sharif] Our contacts with it are continuing through a third party.

Al-Husayni Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel

PM2606143091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 91 p 3

[Nur-al-Din al-Furaydi report: "Al-Husayni Tells AL-HAYAH: Baker Convinced Of Congress' Ability To Obstruct Any Initiative"]

[Text] Brussels—Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in occupied Jerusalem, has emphasized that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is convinced of Congress' ability to obstruct "any decisive initiative" by President George Bush's administration for the sake of a Middle East settlement. He called on the EC to freeze all its recent economic pledges to Israel.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that he informed Belgian Government officials and European Commission officials that the "method of lenient dealings" pursued by Europe with the Hebraic state is "futile," citing Israel's compliance with some demands over the past two years after the European Parliament froze financial and trade protocols with it and after the Commission last year froze scientific cooperation in protest of the closure of educational establishments.

Al-Husayni believes that the only way to avoid keeping the peace process "on the back burner," is "for the United States to put pressure on Israel, because it is the only obstacle to peace efforts." He said that if the U.S. Administration does not do this promptly, it will never do it.

He also emphasized that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is convinced that the U.S. Congress "will obstruct any decisive initiative by President George Bush's administration." He pointed out that the secretary "is trying to put pressure on the Palestinians to agree to initiate a process which he hopes will create a new mechanism that will eventually make it possible to put pressure on Israel without allowing Congress to obstruct it.

With regard to the possibilities of coordination between the Palestinians and the new Jordanian Government headed by Tahir al-Masri, al-Husayni said that "the Palestinian decision stipulates coordination with Jordan." He said that coordination among the neighboring Arab states was "below the required level and their historic responsibilities." He warned against "a catastrophe which will not only swallow up the rest of Palestine's territory but will also have long-term evil consequences unless these states promptly forge urgent and responsible coordination."

'Arafat Meets With Lebanese Communist Leader

LD2006201191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Brother president Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, in Tunis. During the meeting they discussed ways of confronting the dangers surrounding southern Lebanon as a result of the continued Zionist aggression, and the need to intensify joint efforts for the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's total withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Algeria

Bendjedid Reportedly Not To Seek Fourth Term

LD2606105991 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, 26 Jun (MAP)—The Algerian weekly L'OBSERVATEUR has quoted Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, which is headed by President Chadli Bendjedid, as saying that the latter will not put himself forward for a fourth presidential term and that he will withdraw as soon as a successor is elected.

The paper adds, quoting "other sources," that President Bendjedid, "whose chances of winning are still high," will not give in to any pressure to stay in power, even if comes from the army, which could ask him to seek another presidential term.

Continuing Violence in Country Reported

Ghozali, Ministers View Incidents

LD2606101391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Head of government Sid Ahmed Ghozali chaired a ministerial meeting yesterday afternoon attended by the ministers of national defense, foreign affairs, relations with the National People's Assembly, local communities, justice, religious affairs, and human rights. During this meeting, the situation in the country and, particularly, the sphere of the citizens' security was assessed. The incidents that took place the previous night and yesterday morning in two areas of the capital were examined especially closely. Those incidents, which impinged on the security of the citizens and violated public order, were carried out by organized groups.

At this meeting, Mr. Ghozali particularly stressed that the national priority remains, more than ever before, the reinforcement of civilian security. In this connection, he emphasized the government's determination to do what is necessary to achieve this, as regards both the citizens' security and the protection of the democratic course, the completion of which represents the government's first task.

In another development, as part of the implementation of the arrangements for the state of siege endorsed on the eve of the government's formation, Mr. Ghozali signed the executive decrees stipulated in presidential decree No. 91/196 issued on 4 June declaring the state of siege.

7 Dead, 34 Injured

LD2606191191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Calm has prevailed since this morning in neighborhoods of the capital which yesterday were the scene of disorders and confrontation. Life has begun to return to normal in the quarters of Bab el-Oued and Badjarrah, where barricades were removed from the streets. It is known that forces from the People's National Army have retaken positions in some neighborhoods after disorders were reported yesterday. A communique from the military authorities said that violations of the curfew were recorded yesterday and today in several neighborhoods of the capital. The communique said that the confrontations that took place between Monday and today resulted in seven dead and 34 injured, including a number of security and gendarmerie personnel. [passage omitted]

Warning on Friday Prayers Clashes

LD2706010991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The military authorities in charge of dealing with the state of siege published a statement this evening warning against any attempt to cause new disturbances. The integral text, with Nacer Khiat:

[Khiat] On 24 and 25 June 1991, after calm had returned and conciliation reestablished, groups of individuals took advantage of the withdrawal of military forces from the streets of Algiers to carry out once again isolated attempts at causing public disturbances. This resulted in the obstruction of some avenues by barricades, or the harassment of security agents by local gatherings, in spite of the curfew. Attacks against civil servants and policemen have been observed, as well as the use of firearms, causing physical damage.

Those who committed these crimes have not been exactly identified yet. But it is already clearly established that all this was a reaction to the arrests carried out the night before in some neighborhoods of Algiers. In fact, 30 dangerous individuals have been arrested, they belonged to a [word indistinct] organization preaching armed violence against the authorities of the state and its representatives.

The communique stresses that those who are responsible for these actions, and indirectly for the victims, involve dangerous criminals, in addition to these militants. But alas, these are young teenagers, abused in their immaturity under the false pretext of defending the values of Islam. These latest attempts at causing public disturbances and attacking the security of the state are explained by the disarray of their perpetrators. They realize how utopian there ambitions were, and how illusive their desires. The military authorities, still anxious to prevent any collective repressive actions, intend to carry out [words indistinct] to reduce ("through legal means) attempts at causing public disturbances and attacking state security and the security of people and properties. It is probable that attempts at causing disorder will still persist under various forms. It is probable, and some signs suggest it, that the day of Friday, 28 June 1991, will be taken advantage of, on the occasion of prayer, to cause clashes in opposition to the prohibition of demonstration in public places ordered by the military authorities in charges of dealing with the state of siege. It

is worth recalling that every effort wil be made for law and security to be guaranteed over every inch of the national territory—first by appropriate prevention so as to avoid innocent people from falling victim, and then if necessary by rigorous actions called for by the prevailing situation.

To this purpose the military authority relies, as always, as on the first day, on the understanding and cohesion of Algerian men and women in defeating these harmful acts.

Concerning particularly the day of Friday, 28 June 1991, it is essential that this day as well as all coming Fridays return to their traditional spiritual character, fervor, and meditation. That is why the faithful are invited to carry out their religious duty in mosques in their neighborhood. Moves to Algiers not dictated by necessity are not advised, nor are interneighborhood moves to mosques known as political forums or centers of incitement to disorder. The imams who lead prayers and make the traditional sermons are also invited to preach meditation, serenity, and assistance as taught by Islam.

Concerning the youngsters led by professional agitators, their parents are advised to exercise their legal duty of supervision and education, particularly during this phase, as provided by the dispositions of the penal code.

The military authorities note with clear satisfaction the sense of responsibility and understanding shown by the population toward some of the severe dispositions imposed by the measures of security and public order. With everyone's responsible attitude, these antinational subversive actions, which have marked the country for some days although they were prepared long ago, will be ended as soon as possible and in the best conditions.

The military communique concludes: Everyone should know that from now on, under the flag of the Algerian state, nobody can reach power outside the means provided by the Constitution adopted by the Algerian people.

Islamic Salvation Front Statement on Strike

LD2606204191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front issued a communique signed by Mr. Abassi Madani today. It says in particular that the Islamic Salvation Front strike was not called off until the regime conceded to the Islamic Salvation Front that early, free, and impartial presidential elections would be held before the end of 1991. The regime also conceded that all the problems ensuing from its violence would be eradicated, the communique adds. Among these problems are the right of fired workers to return to their jobs, the release of the detainees, the dropping of charges against those who participated in the political strike, and the dropping of charges and legal processes against those who distributed videocassettes showing events.

The communique, signed by Mr. Abassi Madani, says that the restoration of order will be achieved only if the siege and curfew are lifted immediately and if the dates of the legislative and presidential elections are officially announced.

Foreign Minister Says Situation 'Safe'

LD2606162891 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Algiers 26 Jun (APS)—Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi stressed in an interview to Lebanese AL-SAFIR that the social and security situation in Algeria is safe and there is no cause for concern whatsoever. All the officials in government and in the other political forces, whatever their differences, are behaving logically and conscientiously.

Brahimi said that the Algerian citizens are responsible and are behaving in a conscientious and responsible way. They all learned from the lessons of bitter experience gone through by Algeria during the October 1988 events; they do not want the violent acts to happen again, and are endeavoring to avoid any clashes by conveying political differences on to the streets.

Regarding the new Algerian Government, the foreign minister stressed that the choice of Sid Ahmed Ghozali as its head during this critical period is "successful." [passage omitted]

FLN Leader on Closed Central Committee Meeting

LD2606235591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] On the partisan front, proceedings of the extraordinary session of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee continued this afternoon behind closed doors at the 5 July Olympic complex.

Proceedings of this session were restricted to one point—examining the present situation in the country—and, according to leaked information, defining the FLN'S stance toward the development of events in the country, and possibly reconsideration of the formation of the FLN leadership as headed by the secretary general.

Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general, made the following statement to the press on the sidelines of the proceedings:

[Begin recording] The general situation in the country and in the party, the resolutions and stances taken by the FLN concerning political and partisan issues, and the political and partisan measures required, exclude for the time being the second point that was proposed about holding an extraordinary conference. The Central Committee began a general debate; it listened to an introductory survey by the general secretary on the draft program and the issues it put forward. The general debate is now under way at the Central Committee, and could go on for

some time yet. The session obviously goes on into tomorrow, because it is due to last for two days. [end recording]

It should be mentioned that Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the prime minister, was absent from the FLN Central Committee proceedings. On this topic Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri gave assurances that Mr. Ghozali had officially apologized in a letter to the Central Committee.

It remains to point out that proceedings of this extraordinary session will continue tomorrow. Thursday, behind closed doors.

Parties, Movements Issue Statements on Incidents

El Oumma Movement

LD2606155991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Among the reactions the El Oumma movement, chaired by Benyoussef Benkhedda, has issued an appeal in which it evaluates the situation in the country and offers suggestions with regard to the organization of the general elections and other issues.

Let us listen to Mr. Benkhedda, leader of the El Oumma movement:

[Begin Benkhedda recording] When the new prime minister invited us to meet with him, we drew his attention to the complex political situation and the measures which we think should be taken:

1. To reconsider the duration of the state of siege.
2. To calm the situation and release the detainees.
3. To appoint to the government prominent figures known for their integrity and competence from those living in the country or those residing abroad.

Regarding the preparation of the elections, the government must begin preparing a new electoral bill outside of the present National People's Assembly and within the framework of the Constitutional Council which must set up constant coordination with all the political parties. We notice, however, that the new government, despite the fact that it groups together figures who represent several political trends, includes virtually no representative of the Islamic current. We also notice that the government intends to present its program to the present National People's Assembly. The question is: Is this assembly still entitled to ratify a law for free and valid elections since it is this same assembly that ratified an electoral bill that caused the present disturbances?

As for the current situation, which is characterized by confusion and violence, we suggest a broad national consensus including all Algerians, whether they are in power or in opposition, around the following bases:

—To reinforce the national independence which is indeed threatened by outside ambitions.

—To consolidate the unity of the Algerian people around its spiritual and patriotic values.

—To protect the unity of the national territory and its integrity from the danger of the forces aiming at tearing it apart.

Therefore we demand that the citizens' freedom of expression be guaranteed with specific means to enable them to choose the trend, program, and people who represent the majority.

Is there then any need for hasty restoration of the official slogan on the facades of municipal buildings by using force?

Second, the present chairman of the FLN [National Liberation Front, Chadli Bendjedid] must abandon his post as chairman of this party. [end recording]

That was the reaction of the El Oumma movement led by Mr. Benkhedda. As for the Social-Liberal Party, it has demanded that radical administrative measures and a firm, decisive action be taken against all those who try to trangress the law. The party also warned of the consequences of any development of the incidents that could lead to renewed bloodshed.

Finally, the Social-Liberal Party expressed its annoyance with the irresponsible statement made by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders and called on the authorities to assume their responsibilities arising from the challenges facing the country.

Vanguard Party

LD2506211891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] On the subject of party news, the Political Bureau of the Socialist Vanguard Party [PAGS] held a meeting and issued a statement in which it tackled the situation in the country. It said in particular: The current government's action in the present situation cannot be aimed only at straightening out the economic and social situation and consolidating the democratic process, it should also be aimed at restoring civil security.

The PAGS political bureau statement stressed that all the missions entrusted to the current government are under threat from moral pressure, intolerance, and violence by those whom the statement called the forces which are taking advantage of Islam and using it forcibly and in demagogic way to kill democracy, the PAGS statement said, to transform Algeria into a second Lebanon.

When dealing with the decision to establish a state of siege, the PAGS statement said that it is a necessary decision which was made in the service of the country, and should be consecrated to recover stability and civil security.

Before the PAGS concluded its statement by calling upon all Algerians to defend democracy and the republic's laws, it hailed the role played by the National People's Army to protect the state's institutions and the democratic process.

Socialist Forces Front

LD2606211891 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] issued a communique which said that three weeks since the siege was declared, blood is again being shed in Algeria. In the face of the bloody clashes between the security forces and the youth demonstrating in neighborhoods of the capital and some other areas of the country, the FFS can only express its deep regret and great concern at the current situation resulting from the resignation of public authority and the undeclared maneuvers and complicity.

The FFS rejects the solution that could be more grave than the problem. While it rejects the despotic practices of some fundamentalist forces that do not hesitate to draw dozens of youth into carnage, it also rejects adopting the endorsement of a policy that aims at denying part of the Algerian people its political rights and citizenship.

The problem of civil peace is first of all a political problem which inevitably requires a solution through dialogue, consultation, and political debate. Installing a consultative council for parties and associations and a supreme authority for information constitutes a precedence for establishing trust.

* Ali Belhadj Urges People To Stock Arms

91P40323A Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Jun 91 p 5

[Excerpt] AFP—The number-two man of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Mr. Ali Belhadj, asked "the people to stock any arms that they would find, including Kalashnikovs or explosives." He reaffirmed that the Islamic militants are not "afraid of the army." In his speech at the El-Sunna mosque in the Bab-El-Oued district of Algiers, he added that "the army did not intervene to safeguard democracy, but to crush the Islamic movement." Yet Mr. Belhadj once again denied the accusations implicating him in the formation of armed groups whose mission is to "destabilize institutions of the state" in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Reacts to Besharati's Remarks on Gulf Role

NC2606143191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed Egypt's astonishment at Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati's statement yesterday regarding Egypt's role in the Gulf region's security. He said that the premise of security we are talking about is an Arab one, and that the framework of any security order in the Middle East and its implementation cannot be discussed without an Egyptian role, because Egypt is the largest Middle Eastern country and the most influential on the international, regional, military, and political levels.

Regarding the Iranian official's statement that there are economic difficulties in Egypt that prevent it from playing a role in the region, Musa said today that this statement is not based on political grounds nor strategic thinking, because all countries of the world are suffering from economic problems. Iran itself, he said, is not enjoying a good economic situation, and the Iranian role in the Gulf region in the past few years has not been above criticism, not to say above suspicion.

Musa urged the Iranian official to stop any criticism of Egypt. He said: "If on this occasion I confine myself to a few words, we will have a great deal to say if such statements recur."

Iran's Besharati made a statement yesterday in which he reviewed Egypt's economic situation, which he said reduces its ability to bear the burdens and responsibilities of Gulf security.

UN Mission To Broach Israeli Settlements

JN2506155691 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Jun 91 pp 1, 17

[Excerpts] AL-BAYAN and agencies—Egypt is seeking to broach the subject of Israel's continued establishment of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories at the Security Council with a view toward adopting a resolution condemning and demanding a halt to the continued settlement-building. [passage omitted]

AL-BAYAN has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has issued urgent instructions to the Egyptian diplomatic mission at the United Nations to coordinate with Arab and friendly missions to raise the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories at the Security Council and participate in drafting a resolution condemning the continued establishment of these settlements and demanding a halt to it.

Egyptian sources said the purpose of these moves is to expose Israel's intransigence to world public opinion and explain the role of Israel's settlement policy in undermining the chances for peace in the Middle East.

Egypt will demand that the United Nations apply effective pressure to stop the building of settlements. [passage omitted]

Al-Jihad Leader in Bani Suwayf Killed 26 Jun

NC2706103091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2152 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Bani Suwayf, 26 Jun (MENA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Hakim, leader of the al-Jihad Organization in Bani Suwayf in upper Egypt, was killed today when members of the organization clashed with police there. The Bani Suwayf security forces also arrested 10 members of al-Jihad.

Some members of the al-Jihad Organization in Biba, in the Bani Suwayf governorate, gathered today outside the al-Rahman mosque on al-Shabab street in the center of the city and began shouting slogans in an attempt to cause a riot. The security forces tried to disperse them, but the rioters attacked police cars with stones and incendiary bottles, injuring three policemen and damaging some police vehicles. Some fired at the policemen, who returned the fire, killing their leader. The police arrested 10 of the rioters and seized four firearms, several daggers, some chains, and incendiary bottles. The defendants were referred to the public prosecutor in Bany Suwayf for questioning. The body of the al-Jihad Organization leader as well as the wounded policemen were moved to the hospital in Bani Suwayf.

Al-Jihad Member Arrested, Leaflets Seized

NC2206193591 Cairo MENA in English 1818 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 22 Jun (MENA)—The state security investigations department in al-Fayyum seized a quantity of leaflets which a member of "al-Jihad" extremist organization was preparing for distribution after the Greater Bairam prayers in al-Fayyum and other parts of the governorate.

The defendant, Wa'il Shahin by name, was arrested and remanded in custody pending investigations.

World Bank To Provide $520 Million Loan

NC2106204391 Cairo MENA in English 2006 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Washington, 21 Jun (MENA)—The World Bank Board agreed at its meeting here today to extend a 520 million dollar loan to Egypt. The loan will be utilized in various domains determined through detailed negotiations conducted with the bank over the past months. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Further Coverage on Ending of Martial Law

Death Sentences Commuted

NC2606173691 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Counselor Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, has stated that the martial law governor has ratified all the sentences which have been issued by the martial law courts against the defendants who have been found guilty of collaboration with the Iraqi regime except for the death sentences, which the martial law governor has commuted to life imprisonment.

Acquitted Defendants To Be Deported

NC2606150491 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait City, June 26 (AFP)—Most of the defendants acquitted in Kuwait's martial law trials are still being detained and will be deported, a Justice Ministry official said here Wednesday.

"Being innocent does not mean they are really innocent," the ministry's Public Relations Manager Nahis al-'Anizi said.

"Maybe they (the court) didn't find the evidence that accuses them. That's why it's better for them to leave the country," Mr. al-'Anizi said.

"They will be deported because they might be dangerous. The country does not want them," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Wednesday just after the trials that began May 19 had ended. Martial law, imposed after the end in February of the Gulf war, expires Wednesday.

A total of 37 people were acquitted. Mr. al-'Anizi did not say exactly how many were still kept in a deportation center but said "most" of them were now at the facility.

They were from "countries that helped Iraq" during its occupation of Kuwait from last August until February, he added.

Over 300 people, most of them of Palestinian origin and Iraqis, appeared in the trials in which 29 were sentenced to death.

Asked if the deportations were fair, as the defendants had been tried and found innocent, he said this was common practice.

It was done "not only in Kuwait but all over the world. If you feel that you don't want this person in your country (you deport them)."

Minister Interviewed on Martial Law

PM2706100691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 June 91 p 2

[Interview with Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, by Madi al-Khamis in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Khamis] Will the martial law period be extended?

[Al-Sammar] The martial law announced after the liberation of Kuwait 26 March and renewed 26 May will not be extended. Thus, 26 June will be the last day of the martial law period.

As for the martial law courts, their status is connected to martial law. They will not exist after that, and cases will be referred to the competent courts according to the crimes.

Crimes involving state security—both external and internal—will be referred to the State Security Court, criminal cases will be referred to criminal courts, and misdemeanors will be referred to ordinary lower courts.

Martial law courts are exceptional courts for exceptional circumstances due to the invasion. Now, if the cases have not been finally decided and endorsed by the martial law governor so that they can be regarded as final verdicts, the cases still being examined by martial law courts after the termination of the martial law period and without a final decision being reached will be returned to the prosecutor's office, which will renew the indictment and conduct investigations or refer the case to the martial law court.

[Al-Khamis] Have the sentences been endorsed?

[Al-Sammar] The sentences must be referred to the martial law governor for endorsement.

[Al-Khamis] There has been a great deal of clamor over the trials. How would you reply to that?

[Al-Sammar] It is untrue. And there is an answer to such talk, because martial law courts were formed in accordance with Martial Law No. 22 issued in 1967 and endorsed at the time by the National Assembly.

Furthermore, all procedures are legal, since a decision was issued by the justice minister to form a martial law prosecutor's office which has the authority to conduct legal investigations and collect evidence and to refer them to the courts. There are some cases in which the prosecution could not prove the charge, so they were dropped for lack of sufficient evidence or the absence of a crime.

In fact the procedures are 100-percent sound in accordance with the law; the martial law courts have appointed attorneys for each defendant in accordance with the law, and no trials are conducted except in the presence of an attorney.

Anyhow, I have no comment to make about what the Western press and media have stirred up, except to say that the trials are conducted openly and in everyone's view. I believe that it is the greatest insult to justice, and I would like to say that the trials have been conducted in accordance with our laws in Kuwait. And we believe that our laws are fair and sound.

This, apart from the fact that there is another guarantee, since, in accordance with the law, the martial law governor has the right to intervene in sentencing, not charges. So he can lift, uphold, or reduce sentences. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khamis] Let us return to the sentences. When will the sentences passed be implemented?

[Al-Sammar] Prison sentences will be implemented once they have been endorsed by the martial law governor. As for death sentences, their implementation requires his highness the amir's endorsement once they have been approved by the martial law governor.

[Al-Khamis] What is the fate of those imprisoned before 2 August, that is, before the invasion, and those release by the invaders?

[Al-Sammar] An amiri decree has been issued in this regard, stipulating an amnesty for all prisoners except those who committed premeditated murder and other related premeditated crimes of murder [sentence as published]. As for all other crimes, an amnesty has been issued, lifting the sentences but protecting the civil rights of those concerned and the victims' relatives. Victims' relatives are entitled to apply to the courts to demand civil compensation, which has not been repealed by the amnesty because it is an established right. Only the sentences have been repealed. [passage omitted]

Symbolic Security Force To Exclude Iran

LD2606154391 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait City, June 26 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti defense minister said Wednesday that the emirate needed only a "symbolic" Arab force of around 7,000 men to protect itself and ruled out any role for Iranian troops in a regional security network.

Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, quoted by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, also said Kuwait would accord air and naval facilities to U.S. forces, but not bases.

"The symbolic Arab presence could reach 5,000 Egyptian soldiers and 2,000 from Syria," according to Shaykh 'Ali.

The goal would be "to dissuade Iraq or any other aggressor and to show that there is an Arab presence, that there are countries prepared to send additional troops if need be."

Kuwait, along with five other Gulf Arab states, on March 6 joined Egypt and Syria in signing the Damascus Declaration, according to which Egyptian and Syrian units would form the nucleus of a post-war regional security force.

"Kuwait has no intention of allowing the establishment of U.S. or foreign bases on its soil," Shaykh 'Ali declared.

"But a U.S. air and naval presence is necessary to guarantee the security of the region. We are prepared to accord facilities (to U.S. forces) but never bases."

Shaykh 'Ali also argued that while Iran had a role to play in the Gulf, it should not "physically participate" in any security apparatus.

"Iran is a neighboring country and its role in the Gulf consists in giving its advice in a general manner on future security arrangements.

"The presence of Tehran will be through dialogue and not physical participation" in any regional force, he said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati on Tuesday was quoted in Tehran as saying that the six Gulf Arab states, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, should join Iran in ensuring regional security.

Egypt and Syria should be excluded, according to Mr. Besharati, because they are not Gulf states.

In Cairo, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Wednesday rejected the Iranian argument, saying "the application of any security system in the Middle East cannot be envisaged without Egypt, considered the largest country in the region with the greatest political and military weight.

Prime Minister Meets Major in London

LD2606190391 London KUNA in Arabic 1742 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] London, 3 June, (KUNA)—His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al- Sabah met in London this afternoon with British Prime Minister John Major to discuss the situation in Kuwait, the Gulf region and in Iraq.

A Downing Street spokesman said, following the thirty-minute meeting, that the Kuwaiti heir apparent expressed his satisfaction at Major's statement in Parliament yesterday stressing that British forces will withdraw from northern Iraq only after the establishment of firm guarantees for the protection of Kurdish refugees there.

Shaykh Sa'ad also expressed Kuwait's satisfaction with British aid for Kuwait following the liberation. He added that Kuwait aspires to cooperate with the United Kingdom in all fields for the reconstruction of Kuwait.

The sposkesman added that the two sides examined news from Iraq about a United Nations delegation which was prevented from entering Iraqi nuclear installations.

Major also expressed his country's determination to continue putting pressure on Iraq to this effect, and not to reduce its vigilance.

Qatar

Paper Supports Amendment to Declaration

JN2706125691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 27 Jun (WAKH)—Papers published today in the Arabian Gulf report on events and developments of the past few hours. In their editorials and analyses, the papers focus on a number of issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB describes reported intentions to amend the Damascus Declaration as a step worthy of appreciation and praise, and an objective and rational approach to developments.

The paper says: With our high appreciation of the role played by the Arab forces together with the other joint forces in the war to liberate Kuwait, the continued presence of those forces in the Gulf, as stated by the Damascus Declaration, will perpetuate a state of permanent war [words indistinct] the possibility of reaching a lasting peace agreement among the countries overlooking the Gulf.

Amending the declaration so that the Arab forces are invited only in the case of danger, the paper adds, will help defuse tension on the one hand, and pave the way for comprehensive Arab reconciliation on the other.

The paper stresses the importance of future security coordination between the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Iran. It also stresses that Iraq's role in maintaining the security of the region is linked to its transformation into a democratic country redressing the wounds of its people and extending a hand of friendship and brotherhood to the Gulf states, which have long supported Iraq and provided it with much assistance. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Political Prisoners Granted General Amnesty

PM2606155091 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Jun 91 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Saudi Authorities Grant General Amnesty to Political Detainees, Mostly Shiites"]

[Excerpt] London—Travelers arriving from Riyadh the day before yesterday said that, on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, the Saudi Government has granted a general amnesty to most political detainees held in its prisons, including some serving prison sentences of up to 25 years.

The amnesty follows severe criticism by international human rights organizations, particularly Amnesty International.

An informed source has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that those released include 15 Saudis, most of them Shiites, who were accused of participating in a coup attempt against the Bahraini Government in 1981 along with 60 Bahrainis. They were handed over to the Saudi Government after three year of detention.

The source added that those released also include some followers of the "Hizballah-Hejaz" organization and four others accused of complicity in the Riyadh University fire. The Saudi Government has not officially announced the release of these people because it has always denied holding any political detainees in its prisons. [passage omitted]

Iran's Velayati on Relations With Saudi Arabia

LD2606104891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Jeddah, 25 Jun (SPA)—Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minster of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that the positive development of Iranian-Saudi relations is a result of an objective and deep vision of the current situation in the Gulf region. He indicated in a press statement published here today that the improvement in good-neighborly relations has made the future of the region look secure.

He stressed that the new turn in relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran is among the most important factors which made the new positive atmosphere possible. The Iranian foreign minister expressed optimism concerning Saudi-Iranian relations. He said: We are very optimistic concerning relations between our two countries and we wish everything good for this important region through cooperation within it.

He indicated that he took part in this year's pilgrimage and acquainted himself with the expansion projects of the two holy places. He stressed that these projects are beneficial and necessary because of the increasing number of pilgrims who come to these holy places every year. He said: We strongly support the uprising of the Muslim Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He called on the Islamic world to work continuously for the salvation of holy Jerusalem.

The Iranian foreign minister expresed concern regarding what is going on inside Iraq and the possibility that civilians will be exposed to new pressures from the government. He said that the Iraqi regime must respond to the demands of the Iraqi people and put an end to the present distressing situation.

Minister Denies Rejecting UN Team Inspection

JN2606120891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has denied reports by some news agencies that Iraq has refused to allow the special UN committee to inspect one of its nuclear installations near Baghdad.

He said in a statement to INA:

Some news agencies have been publishing reports citing diplomatic sources in New York which claimed that Iraq refused to allow the special UN committee to inspect one of its nuclear installations near Baghdad and that it had not officially informed the United Nations of its existence.

He affirmed that these reports are untrue and their motive is to deliberately harm Iraq and its clear stand which is based on cooperation with the United Nations.

He pointed out that the UN team for inspecting nuclear substances made a request to visit Iraq and inspect the installation during the days of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

He said we responded to the request by saying that 'Id al-Adha is one of the most important religious occasions for Muslims in the world and Iraq where they perform the duties of their true religion. Some of them travel to holy Mecca and to Medina, the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, to perform the pilgrimage. Some of them also dedicate themselves to their religious and social duties during the 'Id days, which are an official holiday.

He added: We advised the inspection team to postpone the visit until immediately after the 'Id holidays. As the Arabs and Muslims respect others' religious rites and holidays, others should respect our religious occasions and holidays. They insisted, however, on their stand and said that they were willing to come to Baghdad to hand a message to the Iraqi foreign minister. When the team arrived in Baghdad, I interrupted my leave to receive it on Saturday evening, 22 June, which was the first day of 'Id al-Adha. I received a message from the team. During the meeting, they requested a visit to a site near Baghdad, which was found to be a military position within a military area which includes many positions affiliated with the Defense Ministry, not the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Organization. Despite the difficulties because of the 'Id al-Adha holiday, as most officials and employees at these sites were having their 'Id holidays, we did our best to obtain the military authorities' consent for the team's visit to that installation. When the team went to it, it requested a visit to other sites within the same military area. The officer in charge did not approve the visit because he did not receive instructions from his superiors allowing anyone to visit these positions. This is normal procedure throughout the world as military positions cannot be visited without authorized approvals. The foreign minister added: When we heard from the UN team that it was unable to visit the other sites they requested to visit, we explained to them the reasons and we contacted the responsible Iraqi authorities and asked them to issue instructions to the officer in charge in these sites to allow the inspection team to visit them. The visit was arranged and the team began its visit to these sites as of 0700 on Wednesday, 26 June.

He explained that on 23 June 1991, the UN inspection team visited installations affiliated with the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Organization. The team made a request yesterday, 25 June, to visit two other sites affiliated with the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Organization. The responsible Iraqi authorities readily gave their consent because the team's request was clear and specific. This is clear evidence that Iraq and the responsible Iraqi authorities are cooperating with the United Nations. This exposes the lies and fabrications of the sides fishing in troubled water to serve their suspect policies.

The foreign minister stressed Iraq's constant position in cooperating with the United Nations and the secretary general.

He said: In its press statement on 24 June 1991 following its visit to the country between 9 and 14 June 1991, the UN team to inspect Iraq's chemical facilities stressed that it did not confirm finding any undeclared activities related to biological, nuclear, and missile capabilities at the installation sites, and that it found no indications that Iraq is deliberately attempting to mislead the inspection team. The Iraqi authorities were fully cooperative.

He said: We are committed to one clear position, cooperating with all sides, the secretary general, and the United Nations team dispatched to Iraq. Hence, the Iraqi sides dealt in a positive manner with the team led by Zaffiraro [name as received] to inspect and verify the nuclear substances, although it chose a completely inappropriate time for the visit, as I have explained. This was because first, the aforementioned team insisted on coming during the blessed 'Id al-Adha, which is an important and dear religious and official holiday to all Iraqis; and second, because the team requested to visit sites not affiliated with the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Organization, which required a long time to obtain the proper Iraqi authorities' approval to prepare for the visit.

The foreign minister concluded by saying: We categorically deny the reports circulated by some news media and agencies which claimed that Iraq prevented the inspection team from entering an alleged important installation near Baghdad. Moreover, we condemn the behavior of those sides whose only concern has become fabricating news and circulating it to serve their suspicious policies.

U.S. Allegations on Nuclear Program Challenged

JN2606213991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2026 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—Iraq has categorically rebutted the empty allegations and accusations attributed to Margaret Tutwiler, the official spokeswoman for

the U.S. State Department, that Iraq continues to carry out a nuclear armaments program.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told INA the following: We read the statement AFP transmitted on Wednesday, 26 June 1991 and which it attributed to Margaret Tutwiler, official spokewoman of the U.S. State Department, in which she claims that Iraq continues to carry out a nuclear armaments program and that it has deceived the special UN committee charged with verifying whether Iraq is abiding by UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The source added: AFP cites Margaret Tutwiler as saying that there are many pieces of evidence from various sources that Iraq continues with a secret nuclear armaments program that includes activities for military nuclear production.

The Foreign Ministry's responsible source said: Although we have not obtained the official text of Mrs. Tutwiler's statement, we would like to express astonishment at the statement attributed to the official spokeswoman of the U.S. State Department. We categorically deny these empty allegations and accusations. We cannot but say that such statements, if they were really made by a responsible U.S. source, are part of the premeditated campaign of deception that is being waged by tendentious quarters which are known far and near within the international community. The international community is now irritated by the recurrent insults it is receiving from these quarters whose main preoccupation is to fabricate lies and deception.

The source added: Mrs. Tutwiler has claimed she has many pieces of evidence from various sources. We here ask the U.S. State Department's official spokeswoman to produce these alleged pieces of evidence and their sources so that the world at large might come to know the truth of the campaign of deception and lies to which the State Department's official spokeswoman seems to have fallen victim.

The source said: Iraq has expressed readiness untold times to receive any other team so that it may freely verify and inspect Iraq's nuclear facilities, all of which are are devoted to peaceful purposes. This will expose the United States, which regretfully seeks only to deceive world public opinion.

The source added: The best proof of what we say is the press statement issued on 24 June 1991 by the UN team tasked with the inspection of Iraqi chemical facilities following a visit to Iraq. It says: There was no evidence of undeclared activities dealing with biological, nuclear, or missile capabilities at the site of the facility. The inspection team found no signs that Iraq intentionally seeks to mislead the team. The Iraqi authorities have shown full cooperation.

The Foreign Ministry's official source concluded by saying that Iraq reiterates that it will cooperate with the United Nations to implement the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991. This cooperation is part of a constant stand Iraq has adopted and continues to adopt. We see extremely clearly, however, that specific parties act with premeditation, completely at odds with UN Security Council resolutions. Their objective has become known: It is to influence the other UN Security Council members and prevent them from adopting a sound stance and lift the siege and embargo imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi people.

Proceedings of Saddam's Al-Najaf Meeting Reported

JN2706101391

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 26 June broadcasts a recording of President Saddam Husayn's meeting on 25 June with a gathering of citizens from al-Najaf Governorate, including religious figures, tribal chiefs, and other prominent citizens. Reception is poor.

The recording begins with the citizens chanting slogans expressing readiness to protect Saddam with their souls and blood.

At 1704 GMT, an unidentified speaker delivers a 15-minute speech praising Saddam Husayn, expressing allegiance, and stressing that the citizens of al-Najaf had nothing to do with the recent incidents in the governorate.

At 1720 GMT, another speaker expresses pride in Saddam's leadership, highlighting the nationalist identity of al-Najaf, and attacking recent "criminal acts by mobs" in the governorate. He says: "Your presence at the head of the state is a safety valve for the life of the entire population and the future of the whole country."

At 1730 GMT, members of the audience recite poems hailing Saddam Husayn and congratulating him on 'Id al-Adha.

At 1741 GMT, the recording is interrupted to carry the call for evening prayers.

At 1750 GMT, an unidentified speaker delivers a 10-minute speech noting Iraq's "steadfastness" and the ability of the Iraqis "to fight America and its allies thanks to Saddam's wise leadership."

Saddam then delivers a speech from 1802 to 1907 GMT, filed from INA. The recording ends at 1908 GMT.

Saddam Addresses Al-Najaf Delegation

JN2606191991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that one of the basic targets of the 30-state aggression against Iraq was the relationship between Saddam Husayn and the people. His excellency said during a meeting last night with a large group of citizens from al-Najaf Governorate: One state stood in the face of 30 states; and one flag stood in the face of 30

flags. But, what a difference there is between one flag and many flags, one banner and many banners.

His excellency said: We do not call on one sword for the confrontation, but on all the swords of the believers and the men who speak truthfully and take a faithful, firm, and clear stand.

His excellency told the gathering, which included several esteemed men of religion, city figures, and tribal chieftains: We should cooperate to free the Iraqi people from responsibility for part of the incidents of treachery carried out by the traitors and riffraff.

President Saddam Husayn said that minor things in life must not make us miss the great and sublime ones. His excellency added: We have not reached what we would like in terms of the material things in life that bring well-being to the Iraqis, or even in financial terms, that used to be better. This is because what we want for the Iraqis is greater, what is ahead of us is higher, and what is coming is better, God willing.

His excellency said: We honestly tried—and we are still trying—to enhance the standard of the poorest class in society and to give it all its rights in accordance with what we believe. What we believe in is the genuine production of our great nation and its glorious heritage.

His excellency said: We are part of the people and they are part of us, and we are not different entities but one. Addressing the citizens of al-Najaf, his excellency added: The residents of al- Najaf constitute the first governorate in a crisis; this is al- Najaf's fate [istihqaq]. His excellency said that the good must lead in the city, the tribe, the party, the people, and the government.

His excellency said: Our basic goal now is to explain the destruction carried out by the evil aggressors against our country through documentation, words, and pictures, and to explain how we responded to the aggression through our work.

The president said: Life consists of lessons in patience and belief; it consists of lessons on the path of pride and dignity. Life is a lesson in knowing ourselves and knowing the human being.

His excellency said: When Almighty God created the world and life in this world, He wanted to teach man lessons. We do not know all that Almighty God knows. Even what we may consider rejected and unaccepted, Almighty God wants, through them, to teach us eloquent lessons.

One of the lessons of the not too distant past is our meeting with you, brother notables, chieftains, and prominent figures in al-Najaf. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, faced the society of the Arabian Peninsula with all the traits that were mentioned about it in history. He also faced the society of Quraysh [Prophet Muhammad's tribe] with all the noble qualities it embodied and all its weaknesses and shortcomings. He found that there were those at the bottom of the social ladder who were being pressured by those at the top of the ladder. He also found that some of those at the top of the ladder had double and conflicting standards and values. Some of these values were maintained and not discarded by God. These same values were also maintained and not discarded by the prophet, while other values were discarded, rejected, and replaced. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, had to capitalize on the values of Islam, which is a great revolution—in fact, the greatest revolution in the history of mankind, as you know, not to mention that it is a divine message.

Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, had to bring together those at the top of the social ladder and those at the bottom. But on what bases and principles? He sought to bring them together on the bases, values, and meanings of Islam. Which party will govern the other? This was the political question that the prophet had to answer. He ordered the notables to become the leaders but that afterward they cleanse their souls and become faithful believers. Thus, he installed the social class at the top of the ladder to become the leader in the form of faithful men who guide. This brought about what we are proud of, the era of the prophet's companions, may God bless them all.

His excellency added: At a meeting like this one, it is inevitable for me to speak to you about something that I believe is my duty and to be as frank with you as I have always been and as accurate as God enables me to be.

His excellency said: It is only natural that in our march we make mistakes and accomplish positive things of which you are proud. This has been mentioned in your speeches and your poems. We have sincerely tried and we continue to seek to enhance the status of the class at the bottom of the ladder and to give it all its rights in accordance with what we believe. What we believe in is the rebirth of our glorious Arab nation's history, and of its immortal heritage. One of our mistakes is that we have failed to establish as needed, or as should be, the state of harmony and sound interaction between the class at the bottom of the ladder and the one at the top, and we also failed to correctly judge the leaders when they are purified by faith.

His excellency said: One of the things in which we have not been successful until now is that we failed to convey what the leadership wanted to the remotest link in the chain of command, or those who claim that they represent the leadership. From this premise, I do not believe that the officials there in al-Najaf always remembered to invite the influential men in their city to communicate to them a specific opinion and stand when needed. Had they remembered, the guard would have arrived. The guard I mean is not a person but a state of alertness that is based on conviction and enhanced by faith. The swords we invite to battle are not one sword only, but all the swords of the believers and the swords of all the men who say the truth and adopt sincere, explicit, and firm stands.

When it seemed to you and to other noble people who perhaps did not have the chance of coming to this hall—I have not dwelt on this, as this is something natural—I say that when it seemed to them that responsibility lay in specifics within their well-known or visible requirements, they forgot to remember their responsibilities; they forgot to remind themselves to make their sense of responsibility felt in confronting deviation, correcting mistakes, and facing treason right when it came. Thus, the guard was rendered nonexistent. I am aware that the person who attributes to himself a leadership role or is assigned such a role becomes accountable more than others in hard and difficult circumstances; he becomes responsible for asking: Where are the noble men? I am here. If the men assigned responsibility at a given time had said at the proper moment—which should have materialized, reflecting what the situation should have been—we are here, all the noble people would have gathered in front of them, around them, and at their side to prevent evil from achieving its objectives.

His excellency added: In spite of all that I have said, I am not going to retract my blame of the residents of al-Najaf, because the hope in them as true Arabs as well as the background of their city and its population, taking into account all that you have said about them in front of me, does not absolve them of the blame. This is because they should not have allowed the mobs to act and thus allow negative acts to be documented against the city and against Iraq after all these honorable and great positions. We are aware of all the details. Hence, we should cooperate to absolve the Iraqi people of responsibility for part of the treacherous incidents perpetrated by the traitors and the mobs that assisted them. I am well aware of this. I said what I know. I said that the basic part of what happened in this chapter of aggression is what came from across the borders and plagued some people. They were supported by mobs, some of whom can be characterized as some of you have characterized them, while others were affected by the shock which robbed them of their balance. Thus, they fell.

His excellency the president added: What concerns me is not the acts of foreign infiltrators or those of the traitors who assisted them, but rather the acts of mobs, because their acts were not the product of premeditated treasonous intentions, despite the fact that the end product was evil, harmful, and painful. Therefore, when we make known, wherever we are located, the audible and tangible signs and positions of nobility, we reduce the probability of seeing the mobs join those who betray the trust. Most often, ears decide many things. Hence, we should make ourselves heard to people to put them in a position that makes them immune to wrongdoing. The man of religion should do this out of conviction and not because he receives orders to do so; tribal chieftains should do this, notables of the society should do this, the party member who really has strong convictions should also do this. To my understanding, the party member is not a fanatic; he is the son of the people who, when orderly, finds himself capable of doing good and rendering good services to his people. At all times, it is to be expected that scores of people can emerge as traitors or aberrant people. However, we should not lose from society those who support them and thus cause the victimization of people who were not in the first place hostile or who harbored ill intentions. However, the law does not always look for intentions; most often, it judges people according to the end product.

The president added: Praise be to God, the good people, and the ones who are like this good gathering, did not fall into the abyss of treason. However, we as a nation should learn from our lessons in order to understand what is difficult in the right way. This is the way to understand clearly how the renegades soon deserted faith after the death of Prophet Muhammad, although the great number of the prophet's companions who witnessed or who were the first to witness that he was a prophet, were still alive. Despite this, a man appeared and claimed he was a prophet and Sujah [woman in early Islam] supported him. Musaylimah claimed he was a prophet, and Sujah supported him. They found people who followed them. They fought the companions of Prophet Muhammad. The renegades fiercely fought the companions of Prophet Muhammad. You know that the Muslim believers' method of confrontation in a moment like this was not to read the Koran to show them the authority of the Koran through the reading of the Koran; all the believers stood up and brandished their faithful swords to express their sincere faith at this moment to confront the renegades. And you know what happened then.

And to start over again, I say: We measure what happened in the chapter of treason and treachery at the hands of the riffraff by similar incidents in the old days. If the renegades appeared during the time of the companions of the prophet, why should we be suprised at the acts of the riffraff? Praise be to God, we lost no one from the good people whose stands are known and who respected their word. I say we lost none of them, praise be to God. And the reproach I am speaking about is different from our reproach to Hafiz [al-Asad], as the poet said. The reproach among us is a reproach among family. We blame each other and say, if this had happened, that would not have happened. And this is among ourselves. However, in all cases, the wrong could be labeled. The person who is present is not like the one who is absent; the far is not like the near; and the one who says, I am in charge, is not like the one who has no power.

In all cases, brothers, the minor things should not make us miss the big and great things. Note how the poet portrayed Hafiz, and how the other poet portrayed Husni [Mubarak]. One blames him for his stand on the Golan and the other blamed him for kilometer 101 [reference to talks between Egypt and Israel]. You saw how they spoke about the revolution of 1920. Although it happened in 1920, they are still speaking about it. Proud talk about that revolution will continue in the future.

Regarding what one person in the audience said, that the generations will continue to be proud of President

Saddam Husayn as we are proud of the 1920 revolution, his excellency said: May God bless you, may God bless you all. Your heads will remain high with pride, with God's help. Your sons will be proud of you, and your grandsons will also be proud of you.

His excellency said: You know that spears, swords, and javelins were used in fighting at the onset of Islam and for some time afterward. The shield was used for protection. The weapons used by the two sides were equivalent. And if there were differences they would have been simple. Let us take the army of Prophet Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah and the army of the infidels. Both had swords. When one person stood up for a duel the aim was to arouse enthusiasm, make a psychological impact, and test strength. When one of the infidels stood up for a duel a person was elected to stand in front of him although the two sides were different—one of them from among the infidels while the other from among the believers. 'Ali Bin- Abi-Talib would stand in front of this; Hamzah would stand in front of that; and this one would stand in front of that other. A sword would face a sword, and a spear would face a spear. And when God wanted to make it easy for the Muslims, He said one would face two. This is a stand of faith, isn't it? (?Let us count two ranks), although I still consider the Iraqis one capable rank, praise be to God. I never hoped and I still do not hope for a larger number. Praise be to God, I am satisfied with this number, and what God adds to this number is a grace from Him.

His excellency said: Only one state confronted 30 states, and only one flag confronted 30 flags. What a difference between one flag and many flags and between one banner and many banners. All these states gathered and the world's money was placed at their disposal. They also used the wealth of the world and this region as well as the most advanced weaponry. We, may God be praised, had what we had. Every one of you knows that, and the men of religion, as specialists, should always seek the truth and know Koranic verses by heart. In one of the battles, a sword faced another sword, a bow faced another bow, a spear faced another spear, and a shield faced another shield. Yet, Almighty God described the situation of the Muslims during that battle by saying "The eyes became dim and the hearts leaped up to the throats" [Koranic verse]. God concentrates on the meanings not the words. No one should have doubts about God. Notice that they were faithful people but some of them wondered: Where is God's mercy, victory, and support? These are Almighty God's words. These words are not pronounced by God about people who lived 1,411 years after the message but about the faithful people who rallied around the banner of Muhammad, God's messenger—and 1,440 years later, God grants us this great honor. Almighty God is capable of doing everything. But why did eyes become dim during the Uhud and Hunayn battles [battles in Muhammad's lifetime]? It was a test of faith and aimed at building souls on the basis of faith after they were tested by the difficult events in order to spread faith over areas and among people greater than those of the Arabian Peninsula.

His excellency added: We the Iraqis, including myself, usually talk about only a part of our rights, but when we talk about other people's merits, we give them more than they deserve. This is the position of good people. Haj Wahid now said that we fought them in the mother of battles for one month. In fact, we fought them for 43 days. Now we forget part of that. However, we pin great hopes on you.

His excellency added: We fought injustice, may God be praised. He also said: Life is measured by its higher values, not by its trivial matters. I hope that you will alert those who see life and higher values through trivial matters. We, the followers of al- Husayn in this place and elsewhere feel each other's problems. We do not know if a large basket will come back from the market full or empty. We wanted to secure life's materials to make the Iraqis strong, but we could not accomplish it. But what we want for the Iraqis is great and what is coming will be better with God's help.

He added: We praise God because we believe that what happened had to do with honor and was Iraq's destiny. It will prepare them for a very great role, including the difficult test for the Iraqis' domestic life. It will prepare them. For a long time, we have been hanging slogans on the walls. How can we know that all these slogans are sound? Let things take place, not because we want them to. We should not be disappointed by disasters. We will overcome them after we understand them, God be praised, instead of talking constantly about them. After my meeting with you, let us not talk about the little things in our march. They are painful, but they have ended, and let us resume our march.

His excellency said: One of the basic objectives was this relationship between Saddam and the people. They believed that they could affect this relationship. In their direct aggression, although they made their black cloud rain venom on Iraq, they knew that this alone would not be enough to muddy the clear waters in the relationship between Saddam and the people. They tried to involve agents and traitors to accomplish this disruption. They believed that neither Saddam Husayn nor the leadership would discover that there is a foreign element, that there are agents who were recruited many years ago, that there are mobs who have been misled. However, the good remained good.

His excellency said: We know our people. We know with whom we have fought. We are part of the people and they are part of us. We are not different entities but one. They sought to sow mistrust and portray things out of their true perspective. Instead of speaking about and enhancing the great common denominators of the unity of the people, the talk became one of minor issues. When al-Najaf citizens constitute the first governorate in the crisis, this is Al- Najaf's fate [istihqaq]. Its fate cannot be anything else, keeping in mind all the meanings you and I know about al-Najaf and its people and about Haydar al-Karad [religious shrine] in al-Najaf, and about the

relationship between all this and Baghdad. This is al-Najaf's fate. As for what happened, we do not blame al-Najaf for it. Even if we mildly reproach al-Najaf, we do not do so to hold you responsible for what happened. What is meant is to draw attention to something so that we may see things better and act in a better manner. When the men of religion—and they are present here—speak about marginal issues that lead to division, we tell them, speak to us about issues that unite, and when a chieftain speaks about matters that lead to division, we tell him, tell us about something that unites. When the prominent people of an area speak about issues that divide, we tell them to speak to us about things that unite, and when this or that Ba'thist speaks about issues that cause division, we tell him to speak about things that unite. For this reason, scorpions can emerge only once from among the ranks to sting. Scorpions can sting only once because we will identify them and deal with them. We will proceed with this glorious march which no Iraqi should belittle. This is so because this march is yours. The question is not who rules. This is not important and has no value even if those who lead are good people. This should remain our principle.

His excellency added: The good person is the one who should lead, within the city, the tribe, the party, the people, and the state. I know the relationship existing between every good man and those whom he leads. I know the historical background of this. That is why we are proud of this or that person. However, I say that the situation has become so serious that we should not be preoccupied with details. It has become so serious that I told myself, and said once on television, that I wished I could have a cloak as big as Iraq to cover all, even the mobs despite all their arrows, and be able to say: Nothing has happened because Iraq is so great in terms of sublime values that it is unacceptable for a Moroccan who believes in the principles in which the Iraqis believe to be rendered incapable of understanding such a status. God willing, you will have an opportunity and the time will come when you see how your brothers and the sons of your entire nation, Arab and Islamic, look at you, your mission, and the principles you upheld in the face of infidelity and aggression. We first thank God who granted us victory and firmly entrenched faith in our hearts. Praise be to God for that. Second, we thank you all. Who is Saddam Husayn? He is one of you. We are not different entities, but one. It is all thanks to us all. In every individual and specific case, you should enlighten short-sighted people, those with little intellect, or those who have been blinded by the pressures of the daily affairs of life which sometimes render them incapable of seeing the rays of the sun or the light of the moon. Teach them good things and tell them not to waste this great position. If you have criticism, make it be heard. But say it in such a way as not to weaken the march, as with each passing day we should show ourselves as people who can assume responsibility and appreciate their accomplishments.

His excellency the president added: Our prime task now should be to explain the destruction carried out against our country by the evil aggressors through documents, words, and pictures. We must also explain how we replied to the aggression through our action after the cease-fire went into effect. This will show you as you really are and as you deserve to be portrayed. I will not say that such work will be worth more than military confrontation, because jihad is greater than anything. Such work should rise to a level that is almost equal in worth as the confrontation of aggression through the use of arms. This will show your character as we would want. Then, when we will say, this is what France destroyed and did; in the second picture, we will say, here you see what the Iraqis did. We will also be able to say that the production of this plant was this much; its production reached this figure during the blockade. Even now brothers, I am addressing you, using specific rather than general terms. Thus far, none of the ministers or officials has told me that a certain destroyed plant cannot be repaired by us. This applies to all that has been destroyed. In the last meeting, held during the 'Id, when ministers called on me to extend congratulations, I asked them what each did and asked them about the difficulties that each faced. They said that they only needed time; that is, repairs needed two more months. This is the only thing they mentioned. When I asked each of them what he needed from us, from the post, to ensure the work for him, each said: Nothing; only your general encouragement.

His excellency the president went on to say: God willing, we are capable of repairing all that they have destroyed with a few exceptions. We are capable of restoring some of what they destroyed to exactly what it used to be, some of what they destroyed to a state lesser than it was, and some of what they destroyed to a state much better than it was. What is more important is that we will attempt to repair all that they destroyed. This generation of yours, God willing, has managed to work in a manner that is commensurate with its faith and capabilities, praise be to God.

Relay our greetings to the residents of al-Najaf. As for the University of al-Kufah, I fear that the failure to return its operations to al-Kufah could be interpreted as a sign of dissatisfaction. Hence, and regardless of all the justifications for the university's transfer, operations will be moved back to al- Kufah.

Security Measures Against Coup Attempt Reported

NC2706092391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0443 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Following the escalation of jihad operations against the regime henchmen and military and security positions, Saddam has issued a secret warning to the Ba'thists on the threat of assassination. The warning was issued through party channels to the so-called comrades and supporters, two types of affiliation with the (?infidel) party. The infidel party's warning used the term night ghosts to refer to the popular forces' revolutionaries and members of the popular committees, who conduct jihad military operations to

catch agents of the regime or members of the malicious Ba'th gang wherever they may be.

According to our own sources, an official warning has been issued to members of the 'Aflaqi Zionist party, cautioning them against the night ghosts, as the revolutionaries' attacks and the popular committee's revolutionary executions have made them a source of apprehension and [word indistinct] in security, party, intelligence, and Presidential Guard centers in all Iraqi cities. Our sources note that the term night ghosts has a profound psychological significance [word indistinct] the regime's mercenaries' fear of the popular revolution heroes and their jihad operations.

Meanwhile, as the first indications of the ruling 'Aflaqi institution's collapse appear in Baghdad, the meek tyrant Saddam has issued a decree forming (?eight) military squads to protect the city and intervene against any coup attempt.

There was tension in Baghdad last week following fighting among military units. There are indications that a high-level military rebellion or an attempted coup supported by a large number of military personnel occurred. It has been learned that the regime executed 20 senior officers and made undeclared changes among corps, division commanders, and positions around Baghdad, one of which included Staff Brigadier General Mu'ayyad Mahdi Salih, who was arrested and may be executed. This raises speculation that mercenary Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the so-called National Assembly, and his brother Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, may suffer acts of revenge or be killed by the meek tyrant because they are the detained brigadier general's brothers.

In confirmation of our earlier reports, a refugee who fled from the south to Iran said Saddam executed without trial two prominent members of the Ba'th Party in al-'Amarah City, Jawad Sahib and Shayyah (?Muhalkali). The increasing differences among 'Aflaqi party authorities and the repeated coup attempts are indications that the authority's impending collapse has reached an advanced stage which may develop into an armed conflict before it finally falls.

Opposition Said To Meet in Damascus 29 Jun

NC2606144091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition will hold a meeting in Damascus on Saturday to discuss the recent developments in Iraq. Opposition sources have stated that although no agenda has been prepared yet, discussions will center on the current situation in Iraq and the draft agreement reached between the despotic regime and the Kurdish parties, in addition to the situation in south Iraq.

The Iraqi opposition coordinates its activity through a council of joint action for Iraqi resistance. This council is composed of representatives from 17 parties and resistance movements.

In December 1990, these groups met in Damascus and drew up a program of a joint action that specifically aims at establishing a democratic regime in Iraq and overthrowing despot Saddam Husayn.

Sharon Addresses Jewish Agency Convention

Newcomers to 'Greater Jerusalem'

TA2606183991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Address by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon to a Jewish Agency convention on 26 June in Jerusalem—videorecorded in English with Arabic subtitles; processed from English; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] I would like to tell you that we have not been building there for newcomers. And I don't think that out of those 300,000 newcomers that came in the last year and a half, there is even 1 percent of newcomers that moved to live in Samaria, Judaea, and Gaza. I am not speaking about Jerusalem. We do not direct newcomers to those areas. We are making effort (?as said) in greater Jerusalem, we are making effort in Ma'ale Adumim—everything in order to create a situation where in greater Jerusalem, in the future that all of us will be able, I hope, to see—with God's help, we'll see—1 million Jews living in greater Jerusalem. [applause] [passage omitted]

Rejects Conditional Settlement Freeze

TA2606123191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon rejected the possibility of Israel's freezing settlements until September, when the U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption are scheduled to be endorsed. He said that differences should be put on the table and not hidden under the carpet. The settlement issue should not be linked to loan guarantees and aid for immigrant absorption. The first is a political matter, while the second is a moral and human question. Sharon added that he did not believe that the United States, a country well known for its support of human rights and which was involved in opening the gates of the Soviet Union, would now withhold aid from Israel for the immigrants. Sharon was speaking before the Jewish Agency convention in Jerusalem, and his statements were reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh.

U.S. Support for Absorption Needed

TA2606152191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] There is no connection between our position on the issue of settlement and U.S. aid for the absorption of immigrants, which is a humanitarian issue. These remarks were made today by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. Addressing a Jewish Agency convention, he blamed some Israeli sectors of advocating linkage between the two issues. Sarit Mikha'eli reports:

[Begin recording] [Mikha'eli] The United States is well versed on the human rights issue, and it is quite unbelievable that it would link a patently humanitarian issue, such as the absorption of Soviet immigrants, with the political issue and settlements in the territories. These remarks were made by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. He added: So far, however, I have heard no official American statement to the effect, merely remarks of various Israeli delegations which travel abroad with the sole purpose of maligning the government and forcing it to adopt policies contravening Israel's security interests.

[Sharon] Those busybodies, those indefatigable follow-up committees, inform outside elements of facts that are usually either untrue or exaggerated. Their only aim is to harm the government, which eventually results in damage to Israel's security and immigration.

[Mikha'eli] Addressing the Jewish Agency convention, Sharon refused to consider the suggestion of freezing settlement for one year. In his opinion, it would be preferable to increase and build up settlements.

[Sharon] To prevent this, there is a need to explain repeatedly that there is no connection between aid for the absorption of Jews fleeing for their lives—mainly from the Soviet Union—and political solutions. And another very important thing Israel should do is explain that Jewish settlement is not an obstacle to peace; Jewish settlement is an obstacle to war.

[Mikha'eli] We need American support, said Sharon, to save Jews. It is hard to believe the United States will withhold this aid from us. [end recording]

Sharon Said To Have Private Team for Settlements

TA2606180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Hayim Oron from MAPAM [United Workers Party] and 'Oded Zucker from the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] are accusing Construction and Housing Minister Ar'iel Sharon of having set up, in his office, what they call a private team to establish partisan and provocative settlements. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports from the Knesset.

These days, when reports on select, secret, and smart IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units are splashed all over the media, it is sure to grab a headline. MK's Hayim Oron and 'Oded Zucker have submitted a complaint to the state comptroller in which they accuse Minister Sharon of setting up a private team in his office which circumvents any rules and regulations hindering the minister. This team ignores the authorities in charge of planning and settlement and operates without reporting to the public or to the government.

Oron and Zucker claim that the team is composed of the honorable Messrs. Dan Stav from the Construction and Housing Ministry's planning administration; Uri Ari'el, director general of Amana [Gush Emunim settlement movement], who does not work for the Construction and

Housing Ministry; and Ya'aqov Katz, one of the leaders of the settlers in the territories and Minister Sharon's adviser.

MK's Oron and Zucker assert that Sharon's three musketeers are now working to transform three settlements in the Wadi 'Ara area—Reyhan, Hinanit, and Shaqed—into one urban settlement. They are relocating the settlement of Pe'at Sade in the Gaza Strip, and are turning Revava, which was planned to be Ari'el's industrial zone, into a new settlement. The team is also involved in planning the addition of 300 to 500 new housing units to every existing settlement in the territories, and in preparing roads, public buildings, and so forth.

The rest of the facts will probably be revealed in the state comptroller's report, if we are lucky.

Shamir Hopes Conditions for U.S. Aid Dropped

TA2606132391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes that the pressures and conditions attached to U.S. aid for immigrant absorption will be dropped and that the aid will eventually be extended.

He told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch that relations between Israel and the United States are a success story, and added that he sees no dilemma or need to decide between settlements and absorption aid. Shamir expressed the certainty that the United States will not cut back on aid; however, even if this turned out to be the case, aliyah will continue.

The prime minister expressed sorrow that there were circles in Israel encouraging the U.S. Administration to use the funds for immigrant absorption as a means to employ pressure. The prime minister was speaking today before the annual convention of the Manufacturers Association.

Netanyahu Urges Knesset To Reject Aid Terms

TA2606154691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Speaking at the Knesset, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu noted that Israel has made no commitment to change its policy on the territories in exchange for U.S. loan guarantees. Eyal Lavi reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Lavi] Three motions on the agenda and two queries dealt with the political issue. Most focused on the linkage—or the absence of one—between Israel's policy in the territories and the foreign aid it is accorded. The debate came in the wake of Ambassador Shoval's remarks, the finance minister's contingency plan announcement, and reports alleging that Germany intends to append conditions to aliyah absorption aid. [passage omitted]

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu answered the motions and the queries. He opened by clarifying that the Israeli Government has made no commitment to alter its policy in the territories in exchange for loan guarantees.

[Netanyahu] Nothing explicit was ever said to this effect. No one has said: You are requested to choose between settlements and aliyah absorption. There have been no such remarks. True, there is a tendency to expect this which, I must say, is stimulated by debates held in Israel, including those in the Knesset. Whatever the debaters' intention, this is the result they have achieved. [passage omitted]

[Lavi] The deputy foreign minister called on all Knesset members [MK's] to unite behind a position that rejects all kinds of conditions. He went to the extent of complimenting several left-wing MK's on identifying with this position out of the comprehension that an acceptance of conditions is opposed to humanitarian principles and will result in a series of conditions that will hurt Israeli sovereignty. [end recording]

Netanyahu on Indian Hostages, 'Anomaly' in Ties

TA2706110491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Foreign Ministry situation room by political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Text] [Netanyahu] We are asking that Israelis refrain from traveling in Kashmir for the duration of the crisis. We are asking all the Israelis currently in Kashmir to leave the province.

[Gutman] Does this regulation apply to all of India or only to Kashmir?

[Netanyahu] Only to Kashmir.

[Gutman] There is currently some uncertainty regarding the missing Israeli. Is there any information about the identity of his abductors or about his condition?

[Netanyahu] I cannot tell you that we have solid information that he is being held by someone or some organization. We have conflicting reports, so I would suggest that we not jump to any final conclusions. A staffer from our consulate in Bombay is currently on his way to Kashmir, the scene of the action. Do not forget that India is a very large country, and he must cover a distance of some 1,500 km. His first mission is to track down the missing individual and to secure his release and, naturally, his return to Israel.

[Gutman] Israel's ties with India are somewhat fragile. Can one Israeli Consulate be enough? How does Israel run its daily dealings with India?

[Netanyahu] I must first correct my earlier remark: I said the consulate employee was asked to obtain the missing

Israeli's release, but let me repeat: We have no solid information that he is indeed being held captive by anyone. What was your other question, please?

[Gutman] It had to do with Israel's relations with India. Is the fact that Israel is represented only by a consulate sufficient to track down Israelis who are so far away? How are Israel's affairs being conducted in this respect?

[Netanyahu] The present situation makes things more difficult. I cannot tell you whether the consulate is enough. We are only now learning about how this mission is progressing; however, if we had a full-fledged embassy in a country as large as India, this would certainly have been far easier. In general, I would say that there is an anomaly here, something which should be terminated as the whole world changes its attitude toward Israel. Today, when countries like Bulgaria, Poland, and, let me add, also Albania and soon maybe also Mongolia are renewing or upgrading their relations with us—which I think will also be the case with the USSR—it is somewhat absurd that India remains the last country to actually not have embassy-level diplomatic relations with us. This is totally unjustifiable, and not only because of operational problems in such an area as Kashmir.

[Gutman] Thank you.

U.S. Said Asking EC To Condemn Settlements

TA2706063591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] The United States has asked EC members to include in their summit meeting next weekend a resolution condemning settlements. This has become apparent from recent reports from Europe and from Foreign Minister David Levi's talks in Spain.

Political sources have pointed out that in the past the United States has made efforts to tone down EC resolutions, while now it is conducting a campaign in coordination with the EC to block settlements. This was the framework for contacts with Germany in an attempt to make it delay absorption aid to Israel until Jerusalem makes a commitment to stop the settlement drive.

Senior Jewish leaders who last week met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Israeli officials warned against focusing the struggle against the United States on the settlement issue. [passage omitted]

The prime minister made clear that the government will not go back on its principles despite the cost, even for guarantees. He explained that if Israel gives in on this issue, it would serve as a basis for additional U.S. pressure for further concessions. For this reason, a clear line must be drawn now and pressures rejected. [passage omitted]

Moda'i—Economic Pressure 'Will Yield Nothing'

TA2606115591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i hopes and believes there will be no need to implement the contingency plan for the absorption of aliyah without U.S. guarantees. The plan was devised, he said, because every serious working plan also includes alternatives based on other assumptions. Minister Moda'i told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that the prime minister is not involved in the consolidation of such plans but knows that they exist. Moda'i added that although this was not the original intention of the plan, it implies that economic pressure on us will yield nothing.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's comments on the contingency plan show that he had given up on the $10 billion in aid we are seeking from the United States in the form of loan guarantees. Without this help it will be extremely difficult to create jobs, Peres believes. Furthermore, the government, through its conduct, is breaking its promise to the United States that the money would not be transferred to the settlements. Additionally, it undermines the chances for Israel to avoid the danger of major unemployment. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Knesset Member Peres was speaking during a tour of Bedouin settlements in the Negev.

Dallul Comments on Zayd Wahbah's Statement

NC2606171991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Muhsin Dallul met today with a delegation from the Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council led by Walid Khalid. They discussed the anticipated deployment of the Army in the Sidon area.

Minister Dallul received telephone calls in this connection from Minister of Defense Michel al-Murr and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

Minister Dallul stressed that the Army deployment in the south will take place on 1 July without delay. He declared that the dialogue with the PLO will begin once it is approved by the Cabinet. He indicated that 1 July will prove the Lebanese Army is qualified for this great national task.

Minister Dallul, accompanied by Major General Nabih Farhat, also met today with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council. Following the meeting, Dallul said they reviewed the situation connected with the Army deployment in the south.

On the conditions set by Palestinian official Zayd Wahbah regarding the Army deployment, Minister Dallul said: I do not believe this is serious talk. This is because at a meeting in Sidon, the Palestinian officials, including Zayd Wahbah, informed us that they received instructions from the PLO leadership to help the Army deploy, to give it all facilities, and not to oppose or impede its deployment.

Government Source Comments on PLO Conditions

NC2606123391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Commenting on Zayd Wahbah's statement, a Lebanese Government source told REUTER that the Lebanese Government is prepared to conduct a dialogue with the Palestinian leadership and that a decision to this effect will be made at the first Cabinet meeting. A ministerial committee will also be formed to undertake this task.

The source added that the Lebanese Government cannot accept any conditions which undermine its absolute right to impose its authority and sovereignty on all Lebanese territory. This is a matter on which the government cannot make any concessions. The source said that the government has previously made a decision in this respect, which it applied to Lebanese organizations. It will apply it to Lebanese and non-Lebanese organizations in the future.

The source said that the Lebanese Government supports the principle of dialogue with the Palestinian leadership. This principle cannot be subjected to conditions by any party because it springs from its own convictions. The source emphasized that the Army deployment will take place on time and without delay.

PLO Reportedly Tells Forces Not To Withdraw

NC2706072091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpts] PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah has announced that the PLO will not obstruct the deployment process, but that the PLO will not go so far as to cooperate with this process. [passage omitted]

Fatah movement sources have been cited as saying that the PLO command has instructed its forces in Sidon not to withdraw from their positions until an official dialogue has been initiatied with the Lebanese Government on basic issues.

Wahbah Says Statement Not Declaration of War

NC2706080791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah took a hard line when he linked the evacuation of the positions around the camps and [Palestinian] participation in any committee facilitating the Army deployment with a prior political agreement guaranteeing the Palestinians' political, civil, and social rights.

Wahbah later said that his statement was not a declaration of war or a challenge to the Lebanese Army, but was an explanation of basic issues that the PLO cannot overlook because they concern the fate and cause of a people. He said: When we ask for a political agreement, this does not mean we are making obstacles or preconditions. It is natural that the formation of any military or other type of committee should be preceded by a comprehensive political agreement to ensure that the cooperation has a strong foundation.

Islamic Group To Keep Positions on Front

NC2606124191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] has declared that it will keep its military positions on the Kafr Falus front to shoulder the burdens of resistance until the occupation forces and their agents withdraw from the area for good.

The Islamic Group stressed that following its deployment in Sidon, the Lebanese Army should ensure that supplies will continue to reach the Islamic and national resistance forces stationed on the Kafr Falus front. The group expressed the hope that the responsibility for defending the homeland and liberating the land is a nationwide task from which no one is excepted.

Karami: Army To Confront 'Obstructive Parties'

NC2706053191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has affirmed that the decision to send the Army to Sidon is irrevocable and its implementation will not be deferred. He added that the deadline set for the concerned parties in the city of Sidon will not be extended.

The prime minister believes it is unlikely that serious obstacles will hamper the legitimate forces' deployment in the capital of the south. He said the military command has been given clear instructions to confront any obstructive party, even if this requires the use of force.

Prime Minister told AL-LIWA' today that the Army does not intend to interfere with any party in Sidon or its adjacent areas. He said, however, that the Army will not let any party interfere with its activities or attempt to provoke the troops in any of its positions. He added that if this happens, the Army will respond forcefully.

Islamic Group Reverses Position on Deployment

NC2706063191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] After an Islamic group delegation led by Dr. 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar met with Minister Muhsin Dallul and Staff Major General Farhat yesterday evening, the group changed its previous position of refusing to vacate its Kafr Falus front positions until Israeli occupation forces have withdrawn.

Sources close to Minister Dallul have said that during the meeting, which took place from 1600 to 2230 yesterday, the Islamic group's delegation expressed a positive stand on the Army deployment plan.

Minister Dallul and Maj. Gen. Farhat also have held a lengthy meeting with Shaykh Muhammad Mahid Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council. Dallul said that there are many issues related to the Palestinian people's rights on Lebanese territory and that these rights will be discussed and assured, adding: Basically, we fully sympathize with the Palestinian people's cause and completely share their hopes and concerns.

PLO Leaders To Declare Support for Deployment

NC2706074691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] AL-NAHAR reports today that the Palestinian leadership in Tunis will adopt a position in the next 48 hours supporting the Army deployment plan. Palestinian groups will be asked to abide by this plan and to comply with the requests of the Lebanese Army. The PLO will also identify the Palestinian group that will participate in a dialogue with the Lebanese Government following the Army's deployment.

Meanwhile, Palestinian official Salah Salah has left for Tunis for further consultations with the Palestinian leadership.

Army Reconnaissance Group Enters Sidon

NC2706112991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The actual countdown for the Army deployment in the south began today when a military reconnaisance group entered the city of Sidon at 0900. The group of eight military vehicles left for the area east of Sidon to reconnoiter the areas where the Army plans to deploy, and three of its vehicles were seen on the al-Harah-'Ayn al-Dulb road.

South Army Commander Warns Against Force

NC2706104891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Major Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has said that he is not ready to surrender Jazzin to the unknown. He warned the Lebanese Government against trying to take Jazzin by force, because such an adventure is bound to have negative results for everyone involved.

In an interview with Voice of Lebanon radio, Lahd expressed hope that the Lebanese Army deployment in eastern Sidon will have more positive effects than those of its deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Dallul Affirms Right To Resist Israeli Forces

NC2706111691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dallul has declared that the results of the talks he and Major General Nabih Farhat have held are excellent, because all the parties have approved the implementation of the Army deployment plan. He emphasized that the Army will deploy simultaneously in all areas east of Sidon from Kafr Falus to the coast.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR published today, Dallul noted that, for the time being, this deployment will not include the Palestinian camps. He expected the Palestinians' weapons to be collected and taken outside the country. He asked: Considering that the Lebanese militias have not surrendered their weapons to the state and have only given some weapons to the Army and have sold the rest, how can we take the Palestinian weapons?

Dallul noted that there will be no permanent posts or bases in the areas where the Army will deploy.

Regarding the Jazzin situation, Minister Dallul said: After the Army deploys in the designated positions, we are fully confident that the people of Jazzin will play a

major role in compelling Lahd's militiamen to withdraw from Jazzin, because the Army would negate the reason for their presence.

Dallul also said that, if Israel wants to attack the Lebanese Army, we should urge the international community to shoulder its responsibilities. Why does it not implement the UN Security Council resolutions affecting Israel? He said that instructions have been given to the Army to confront any attack according to its capabilities. The Army will not surrender and lay down its weapons but will defend itself.

Minister Dallul said: We cannot prevent the resistance in the border strip or Jazzin from conducting operations against an enemy occupying the land and the houses there. If Israel does not want to leave the south, then all of us—ourselves along with the Army—should become resistance forces.

Hizballah Reportedly Rejects Disarmament Proposal

LD2606105591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon has decisively rejected the disarming of the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon. An official source in the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon told the central news unit in Beirut that the Hizballah leadership has informed the Lebanese authorities about this.

The source added: The Hizballah of Lebanon welcomes the stationing of the Lebanese Army in the southern part of this country, particularly in Sidon and the nearby areas, which is to take place within the next five days, provided it does not impede the operations of the Islamic resistance against the Zionist regime's forces in southern Lebanon.

No Hostages Released Until Israel Releases 400

LD2606163191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, in a new statement, has rejected any discussion on Western hostages before 400 prisoners taken captive by the Zionist regime are released.

The statement of the Islamic Jihad organization, together with a photograph of Alan Steen, the American hostage, were sent to the office of the Lebanese paper AL-NAHAR, which publishes it today.

The statement notes that America continually insists on the unconditional release of its hostages, but we stand firm on our ground and will not neglect the release of our brothers imprisoned in the dungeons of the usurper Israeli regime.

The statement also emphasizes the continuation of the struggle against the Zionist regime until that regime's annihilation.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has accepted responsibility for taking hostage two Americans named Alan Steen and Jesse Turner, who were kidnapped in 1987.

UK Hostage May Be Released To Prove Goodwill

NC2706055491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] According to our radio's exclusive information, contacts are continuing to resolve the issue of the foreigners held in Lebanon and the Lebanese and Palestinians detained in Israeli jails.

In this context, and in spite of the 'Id al-Adha holiday, the kidnappers have met with officials who are interested in solving this issue. Another meeting will be held for the same purpose within the next 48 hours.

According to our information, two positions have emerged from the kidnappers in response to the understanding shown by the British, which contrasts with U.S. behavior. One favors responding positively to the British position by releasing one of the British hostages within the next few days to show seriousness and goodwill. Those who support this position are being encouraged by certain senior Iranian officials.

The advocates of the other position insist that all the Lebanese and Palestinians who are being detained in Israeli jails should be released in return for the Israeli hostages. The foreign hostages would then be released after the exchange with the Israelis is concluded.

Our information indicates, however, that odds are the first position will be adopted. Therefore, it is expected that a British hostage will be released within the next few days to encourage serious moves on the issue, because it is becoming a nuisance to all parties concerned.

The information emphasizes the undercover French role, which seeks a solution to this issue. '

'Text' of IJLP Statement on Hostages Published

NC2706101791 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Jun 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] AL-NAHAR has received a statement from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] at 2200 yesterday refuting speculations about an imminent release of the 12 Western hostages held in Lebanon. The organization said that it will not release the Americans it is holding until Israel releases 400 Arabs detained in its prisons.

The typewritten statement was accompanied by a colored "polaroid" photograph of hostage Alan Steen (52 years), who was kidnapped along with his compatriot

Turner (44 years) from the Beirut University College, where they both teached, on 24 January 1987.

The IJLP statement holds the United States responsible for obstructing the efforts to release the hostages with its attempt to impose a "capitulationist settlement" on the Arab states.

The text of the statement:

O people; O honorable sons of our nation; O our oppressed people who are crushed under the occupation and who have been displaced and left wandering outside Palestine; O mujahidin who are struggling for the sake of Islam;

We look at you at this most severe and bitter time, when you are experiencing oppression and humiliation; when you are burying one martyr after another; when you are watering the soil with your pure and chaste blood; when you are allowing the tree of martyrdom to grow day after day; when you are spreading the tormented cries of children and bereaved mothers all over the land of Palestine; and as you are marching ahead toward freedom.

You struggle, suffer oppression, and are martyred before the eyes of a world that does not lift a finger. The usurping criminal entity [Israel] persists in its schemes, and the United States continues its conspiracies.

In the wake of recent developments in the region, we declare the following:

1. The United States has been launching more diplomatic and political assaults to maintain its strategic, military, and political control on the region. Its ultimate aims are to drain the meaning from the issue of the occupation of Palestine and other areas; to subjugate regional governments and force them to support a capitulationist settlement; and to consecrate the U.S. peace plan, which seeks to destroy our military capabilities, maintain Israel's supremacy, and impose an international security umbrella to protect Israel against any future threat to its security and existence. In the meantime, Israel persists in annihilating our people and exhausting their energies by brutally oppressing the occupied territories and by fomenting internal Palestinian disputes and conducting raids, conspiracies, and liquidations outside the occupied territories;

2. The "superpowers" support Jewish immigration to "Israel" and provide it with various forms of assistance so it can achieve its demographic supremacy over all of Palestine, annihilate our people inside the territories, and subsequently initiate another war to occupy more land for settlements and realize the dream of "Greater Israel."

O sons of our people: Though the pain is severe and calamities are increasing, preparations are being made for the new dawning of the bright sun of dignity and pride which has disappeared for a very long night. We must know that the darkest hour comes before the dawn. All we must do is suffer a little longer, resist and fight, and trust the Almighty, because victory is imminent.

The hostage issue, which came to be a world problem, is clear evidence of the United States' impotency and its humiliation as its nose is being shoved in the dust under the feet of the mujahidin. The issue is still broadening and the United States is still begging various mediators to help it release the hostages without giving them anything in return. Our willpower and perseverence are strong, however, and we will never abandon our detained brothers.

The hostage issue reflects but one aspect of our larger conflict, which is based on a strong foundation held together by the will to protect the nation's dignity and cut the hands of the United States. The rifle barrel and other means of destruction are the only means of communication.

We assure the United States that a long struggle and a fierce war lies ahead of us and will only end when the head and arms are cut and the United States is driven out of the region.

What is new on the issue is that we resolutely refuse to even consider releasing any hostages unless this is done on the basis of freeing 400 [Arab] detainees. Otherwise, let the matter remain suspended until its fate is decided by the Almighty.

May peace be on those who serve the truth for the sake of the truth.

[Signed] The organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

Al-Shar' Deems Bush Letter 'Fair, Balanced'

JN2606155691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1522 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that Israel's refusal to trade land for peace and continued settlement activity are two pieces of evidence that are enough to prove that Israel does not want peace, despite its rhetoric about peace. In an interview for the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK published this week, the foreign minister urged the United States to publicly declare that Israel is obstructing the peace process. Al-Shar' described President George Bush's letter to President Hafiz al-Asad as fair and balanced to a large extent. He said the cause for Syria's delay so far in responding to Bush's letter is Israel's rejection of American proposals and the requisites of peace.

The foreign minister stressed the importance of U.S. guarantees, declaring that the United States will enforce UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 at a peace conference, whether Israel agrees or not.

Al-Shar' expressed amazement at Israel's refusal to give a role to the United Nations in the peace process although the world knows that Israel was established upon a resolutiuon issued by this international organization in particular. He said Israel rejects UN participation because it wants to evade the implementation of UN resolutions.

The foreign minister said that Syria does not gamble with basic issues; it wants to attend a peace conference in broad daylight, not in darkness.

Al-Shar' Interviewed on Possible Peace Talks

JN2706070591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1744 GMT 26 Jun 91

["Text" of interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Paris, 26 Jun (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that Israel's refusal to exchange land for peace and its continued settlement activity are two pieces of evidence sufficient to show that Israel does not want peace, despite its talk about it. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the interview with the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK:

[NEWSWEEK] After the Gulf war, several states, including Syria, seemed optimistic that progress toward peace in the Middle East was possible. It seems the mood has changed.

[Al-Shar'] You could say we are less optimistic than we were two months ago, because israel's objection to peace has never been so clear in the past 43 years. The evidence is very clear in statements by senior Israeli officials saying they refuse to trade land for peace, or to stop new settlements, which are extremely provocative.

[NEWSWEEK] Are there any other reasons?

[Al-Shar'] We heard that the United States gave Israel assurances that it would not propose any peace plan without consulting with Israel first. We also heard about other assurances Washington gave Israel; namely, that if during the peace process Israel rejected the formula of land for peace, Washington would veto any subsequent move by the UN Security Council to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the bases of the settlement based on land for peace. The Israelis predict the collapse of the negotiations because of their refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories. If these U.S. assurances are true, then they will have negative results. The United States, despite its victory in the Gulf war, will not triumph in the region unless it succeeds in establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

[NEWSWEEK] Is the peace process dead?

[Al-Shar'] If the peace process is dead, then it is because of Israel. Moreover, the responsibility of the United States cannot be denied. In the Gulf, Washington was very eager to implement all UN resolutions. However, with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, this superpower seems captive to the Israelis.

[NEWSWEEK] The United States is waiting for Syria's reply to Bush's recent letter in which he proposes action to reactivate the peace process.

[Al-Shar'] President Bush's letter is the subject of intense discussion, and Syria is taking its time to reply to the letter because Israel has rejected the U.S. proposals and the basic requirements of peace.

[NEWSWEEK] Does Syria want special guarantees before it agrees to attend peace negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] Yes, we are looking for guarantees that, at the conference, the United States will implement UN Resolutions No. 242 and 338, whether Israel agrees or not. We are not sure that the United States will be in a position to force Israel to implement the two resolutions. We want to attend the peace conference in broad daylight, not in darkness, and we want to see light at the end of the tunnel.

[NEWSWEEK] What was Washington's reply?

[Al-Shar'] We are still talking about guarantees. President Bush's letter to President Hafiz al-Asad is fair and balanced to a large extent. However, there are some gaps, and it is in the interest of us all that these gaps be bridged.

[NEWSWEEK] You seem to be very cautious in dealing with Washington.

[Al-Shar'] Had there not been special relations between the United States and Israel, we would not have insisted

on these guarantees in advance. For one reason or another, the United States might consider the mere holding of a peace conference in itself a great victory. It might not take the trouble to reach the results we hope for at the conference.

[NEWSWEEK] How can the United States convince Israel to change its position?

[Al-Shar'] The traditional foreign policy of the United States is that of the carrot and the stick. However, in dealing with Israel, it uses carrot, carrot, and more carrots. There are many things the United States can do. The United States can declare publicly, without leaving any doubt, that Israel is the one obstructing the peace process. Moreover, we should not ignore the huge financial, economic, and military aid the United States continues to give Israel.

[NEWSWEEK] Many people believe that Syria and Israel are obstructing the peace process by raising unimportant procedural issues. For example, why does Syria insist that the United Nations should be represented at the conference?

[Al-Shar'] The United Nations gave Israel its birth certificate by passing a resolution in 1947. Therefore, how can Israel ask the Arabs to recognize it and at the same time refuse to give any role to the same organization that created it? Israel rejects UN participation because it wants to evade the implementation of UN resolutions. UN participation in the peace process is essential.

[NEWSWEEK] Why does Syria not take a gamble for peace and expose the Israeli deception by abandoning its procedural demands and accepting the U.S. proposals?

[Al-Shar'] Syria does not believe in gambling on such important issues. Israel might agree on talks and then says no, no, no to withdrawal. Israel's power in the international news media could allow it to blame Syria and the Arabs for any subsequent collapse in the peace talks. This approach is clear now, especially since Israel's rejection of the Bush proposals has not been widely criticized in the U.S. news media, while, at the same time, criticism of Syria continues despite its positive and flexible position.

[NEWSWEEK] If the peace conference is convened, will Syria hold direct talks with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] Israel talks about peace without committing itself to returning the occupied Arab territories. The Israelis always want something for nothing. So, why should the Arabs make concessions? However, if the United States agrees on the guarantees that we are seeking, then the participants in the peace conference will not turn their backs on one another.

Afghanistan

Kabul Planes Bomb Villages in Vardak Province

BK2606084391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, Kabul Regime Air Force has been conducting savage bombings for the last few days to dislodge mujahidin from Kabul-Ghazni road. They dropped bombs over villages in Vardak Province two days prior to 'Id al-Adha, in which dozens of houses and orchards were destroyed. Over 50 people were martyred or injured. The bombing has disrupted irrigation system of the villages. The shelling was also carried out on the villages between Maydan Shahr, headquarters of Vardak Province; and Kabul.

Bangladesh

Japanese Premier Offers To Help Government

BK2606141691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Japan has offered to provide all possible cooperation to help consolidate newly established democracy in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The offer was made by the Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, in a letter to Begum Khaleda Zia. Mr. Kaifu's letter was handed over to Begum Zia by the leader of the visiting six-member Japanese Parliamentary delegation, Mr. (Mashayoshi Takemura), MP, when he called on the prime minister in Dhaka Tuesday. The Japanese prime minister in his letter also reiterated his country's desire to cooperate with Bangladesh government's efforts for relief and reconstruction work in the wake of the devastating cyclone. He said the two countries had (?steadfastly) maintained friendly and cooperative relations.

The leader of the delegation expressed his happiness at the reconstruction activities in the cyclone-hit areas carried by the government and hoped that it will be able to overcome the crisis soon. He said the mass-oriented program of the Bangladesh government will help achieve its target of uplift and economic emancipation of the people.

Begum Khaleda Zia extended thanks to Prime Minister Kaifu, the government, and his people for helping Bangladesh during the crisis. She said Japan was always a partner in Bangladesh's progress and this role would be further strengthened and consolidated during the tenure of the democratically elected government. Begum Zia referred to the liberal industrial policy and investment climate and stressed for Japanese investment in Bangladesh, including the joint venture. [sentence as heard]

Troops Launch 'Major Offensive' Against Rebels

BK2606161991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, June 26 (AFP)—Government troops launched a major offensive against tribal rebels Wednesday, hours after a fresh rebel attack on a Bangladesh border camp left six guards injured, security sources here said.

One of the six injured died on the way to a military hospital in this port city where condition of another was critical, the sources said.

The troops, who rushed to the camp of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Rangamati hill district's troubled Barkal region, fired back on the rebels since early afternoon, one source said, adding that heavy gunfire continued until late afternoon.

Suspected rebels from the outlawed Shanti Bahini (Peace Force) group ambushed the Andermanik border camp in Barkal injurying six BDR guards.

Security sources claimed heavy casualties on the rebel side in returned firing by troops who cordoned off a rugged hill, believed to be a sanctuary of the rebels. But they could give no details on rebel casualties.

Wednesday's attack by the rebel group was latest in a series of renewed insurgent offensive in the area in past two weeks that left six security personnel including troops dead, 12 injured and 61 civilian houses set ablaze.

One trooper died and two were wounded in a "hararassment" shooting Monday on the same camp by the rebels from across the border in India, the security sources said.

Other sources said the surprise firing came as the BDR personnel were observing the Moslem festival of Eid.

In another attack Saturday against local police on foot patrol, one security personnel died and three others were injured.

On June 15, rebels ambushed a small group of Bangladeshi troops in the same area, killing an officer and two soldiers. The rebels fled into forest after the troops fired back.

In a separate incident Friday, the Shanti Bahini rebels stormed a village in the nearby hill district of Khagrachari and set ablaze 61 civilian houses, the sources said quoting a delayed report.

The rebels had reportedly warned the villagers to abandon their homes, cross the border and take refuge in shelter camps in the Indian state of Tripura, they said.

After a major offensive by the rebels in 1986, up to 30,000 tribesmen mostly from the Chakma tribe fled to Tripura and took refuge in Indian shelter camps. Since

then. Bangladesh claims, most tribemen have trekked back because of aborted attempts by Dhaka and New Delhi to repatriate them.

The Shanti Bahini rebels have waged a 17-year bush war in Rangamati and two nearby hill districts bordering India and Burma.

They demand tribal autonomy and the expulsion of thousands of Bengali-speaking Moslems who have settled in the fertile and sparsely populated hills over the years.

Two years ago, the government stopped new settlements and allowed local autonomy for three newly elected tribal-dominated hill distrist councils in an effort to resolve the tribal problem.

The insurgency which scaled down since the 1989 government move has claimed more than 1,500 lives.

India

Reportage on Kidnapping of Israeli Tourist

Tourist Killed in Kashmir

BK2706064491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 27 (AFP)—An Israeli tourist has been killed in a shootout with Kashmiri Moslem militants in the troubled northern Indian state of Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Thursday.

The agency said the shootout took place Wednesday night and that one of the militants was killed and two others injured in the fight.

PTI said the incident occured when a group of militants tried to kidnap five tourists staying on a houseboat in the summer capital of Srinagar.

"The gun wielding Israeli nationals foiled the attempt by opening fire," the agency said, adding that the group had seized the rebels' weapons and ammunition.

An unofficial report said however that the militants had managed to kidnap one of the Israelis, PTI said without clarifying.

Further details were not immediately available.

Further Details Reported

BK2706065491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Eight Israeli tourists, including two ladies, were kidnapped from a houseboat in Srinagar around midnight last night. One Israeli and one militant were killed while three Israelis and two militants were injured in a scuffle when the tourists tried to free themselves. They snatched three AK-56 rifles from the militants. The injured tourists are being provided treatment at the military hospital. According the latest reports, two women tourists have also set themselves free and the whereabouts of other tourists are not known. The tourists belong to a group of 40 Jewish tourists from Israel. They seem to have been attacked from a pro-Pakistani fundamentalist militant group.

Israeli Diplomat Confirms Incident

BK2706081491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 27 (AFP)—An Israeli tourist was killed and three hurt when Moslem militants abducted eight of them from a houseboat in this northern Indian state, officials said Thursday.

Kashmir police and tourists said the tourists grappled with the militants who had threatened to kill them and in the fight one Israeli died and two or possibly three of the militants were killed.

Three of the Israelis were injured, two of them critically, they said.

Israeli diplomat Goira Becher, speaking by phone from Bombay, confirmed the attack on the tourists but said he did not have details of the incident.

"I confirm the attack on the Israeli tourists. A member of the group was killed and three were injured. I don't know the identity or the organisation which attacked the tourist," the diplomat said.

Tom Haley, a photographer from the French agency SIPA, one of the many foreign tourists rounded up for protection after the attack, said Srinagar City police chief Kumar, told them eight Israelis were picked up from a houseboat Wednesday at 11 P.M. (1730 GMT) by the militants.

The militants let two women from the group go free and took the remaining six men away on a boat, he said, adding that when the Israelis fought back, grabbing at the attackers' weapons, two or possibly three of the abductors were killed.

"There has been no kidnapping, they tried to kidnap," Mr. Becher said from the consul office in the western Indian city.

An official source here said the Israelis said they snatched three assault rifles, magazines and 80 rounds of ammunition from the unidentified gunmen.

Police said two of the injured tourists have been admitted to a Srinagar Army hospital in critical condition.

The offlficial sources could neither say when the tourists arrived in Kashmir nor how many of them were staying on the picturesque lake, but another tourist said that at least 40 of them were holidaying in the state.

Kashmir police Thursday rounded up some 100 foreign tourists in the northern Indian state to provide security to them.

Thursday's killing is the first murder of a foreign tourist in Kashmir, police said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Makes Statement

TA2706083591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0810 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen from "the situation room in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem"]

[Text] I am holding the Foreign Ministry announcement. According to the information received so far at the Foreign Ministry, a group of eight tourists—seven Israelis and a Netherlands woman—was attacked last night in the Lake Dal area in Srinagar, in the province of Kashmir in northern India. The attackers belong to an extremist local organization whose precise identity is still not clear.

According to the reports reaching the Israeli Consulate in Bombay, two women—the Israeli and the Netherlands woman—were freed immediately. So far, we know that one Israeli was killed and three were wounded. One of the casualties is in intensive care and two others are slightly hurt and are hospitalized in a local military hospital. There is no information about a seventh Israeli who is characterized as missing at this stage. The families of the Israelis have been informed.

The Israeli Consulate in Bombay is receiving full cooperation from the Indian authorities. A consular representative in Bombay is now leaving for the site of the incident, some 1,800 km away. The consulate has also asked the local police to escort and protect Israeli tourists leaving the region, and the police have promised a security escort.

An emergency command has been set up in the Foreign Ministry situation room. There is an open line to Bombay, and we have been in contact with foreign elements that can help.

Muslim Secessionists Named as Kidnappers

BK2706094291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Srinagar, India, June 27 (AFP)—An Israeli tourist died and three others were injured when they fought with Muslim secessionist militants who tried to abduct eight of them from a houseboat in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, sources said Thursday. [passage omitted]

Paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) Chief Ashok Patil said the militants who staged the attack belonged to the little-known Achwane-Musambir, one of several armed groups battling for the region's secession from India.

"The group was identified after we traced one of the militants who died at the hands of the Israelis," Mr. Patil said by telephone from Srinagar.

Mr. Patil, engaged in a massive search operation for the remaining abductors, named the slain militant as Ali Mohammad Dar from Kashmir's Rainawari District near Srinagar.

He said between seven and eight Muslim militants had staged the attack on 'The Garden of Eden' houseboat. Another militant, injured in the scuffle, ran away after the attack, Mr. Patil said, adding that an "all-out" effort was being made to arrest him.

"The man has gunshot wounds ... he can't go far," the BSF chief, who heads a 50,000-member force in Kashmir, said, adding the militant group owed allegiance to Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan, which claims Kashmir as its own, of arming and training pro-Pakistan militant groups—a charge Islamabad denies.

Muhammad Ashraf, deputy director of Kashmir Tourism said 25 Israelis were staying in Srinagar and that all were students.

He was unable to confirm unofficial reports that two of the students may still be missing. [passage omitted]

The official sources could neither say when the tourists arrived in Kashmir nor how many of them were staying on the picturesque lake.

Kashmir police Thursday rounded up some 100 foreign tourists in the city, placing them under police protection. They said the remaining Israelis would be evacuated from the state immediately and flown to the Indian capital of New Delhi.

Thursday's killing is the first murder of a foreign tourist in Kashmir, police said.

A pro-Pakistan group of militants, the Muslim Janbaz Force (MJF), is holding two Swedish engineers kidnapped in the Kashmir Valley March 31, refusing to release them unless a United Nations team visit Kashmir.

However the United Nations has refused to send a team to investigate alleged Indian army atrocities in Kashmir, and has condemned the MJF action.

U.S. Congressmen Urged to 'Restrain' Pakistan

BK2606150791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] India has impressed upon U.S. congressmen the need to restrain Pakistan from interference and unilateral action in Kashmir. Official sources disclosed this in New Delhi today. Diplomatic observers draw attention to the U.S. approach on the present crisis in Yugoslavia and point out that the same principle should be extended to the situation in Kashmir. The United States has

opposed violence, instability and unilateral action in Yugoslavia and has announced that it will not recognize the declaration of independence by some of the country's republics. New Delhi has put it across the key legislators in Washington that Pakistan should similarly be dissuaded from provoking instability in the Kashmir valley.

Meanwhile, in the valley, security forces have arrested 10 Pakistan-trained militants. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them. Militants fired a rocket on the house of the superintendent of police of Badgom last night. No damage has however been reported.

In the Jammu division, all LIC [Life Insurance Corporation] offices remained closed today in protest against the gruesome killing of two officers of the corporation in Srinagar three days ago. LIC personnel also took out a silent procession in Jammu.

Rao Meeting Party Leaders To Discuss Problems

BK2606161591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is meeting leaders of different political parties to take them into confidence to have a coordinated approach to various problems facing the country. He met the Janata Dal leader and former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, this morning and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, in the afternoon. The CPI-M [Communist Party of Indian-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, also had a meeting with the prime minister. The Forward Bloc leader, Mr. Chitta Basu, called on Mr. Rao. The prime minister is to meet the former prime minister and Samajwadi Janata Party leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, later.

Talking to newspersons, the prime minister said the response so far from opposition leaders has been encouraging. The official spokesman said the prime minister is calling a meeting of leaders of various political parties this week to discuss the economic situation. Later, Mr. Surjeet told our correspondent that the general economic situation figured during the talks with the prime minister. He said his party can react only after the government's stand on various issues is known. Mr. Surjeet, however, made it clear that his party's stand on IMF loan is very clear and it will accept no conditionality as it may hit the common man.

Secretary-Level Talks To Be Held With Pakistan

BK2706034491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Meanwhile, the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan are scheduled to hold discussions at Male on Sunday before the two-day meet of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Standing Committee beginning on the second of next month.

Pawar Appointed New Defense Minister

BK2606130291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Sharad Pawar has joined the union cabinet as defense minister. He was sworn in by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Later, talking to newspersons, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the government is seeking cooperation of various political parties and their response is encouraging. He said he has already met Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Jyoti Basu, and is scheduled to meet four other leaders this evening. He said political parties have their own stand on various issues, but a meeting ground has to be found to tackle the circumstances in which the country is placed today.

Asked about the election of the new Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Congress-I will put up a candidate and expressed confidence that he will win.

In reply to a question regarding the position of Mr. Sharad Pawar in the new cabinet, he said there is nothing like number two position and it is not an issue at all.

Asked whether he is satisfied with the representation given in the union council of ministers to Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar said he has discussed the issue with the prime minister and he is satisfied.

Investigators Hold Gandhi Assassination Suspect

BK2606164791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 26 (AFP)—Indian investigators are holding another Sri Lankan in connection with last month's assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and on Wednesday said he was suspected of being a co-conspirator in the murder plot.

A special investigation team (SIT) charged with probing the May 21 assassination said the detention of the man in the Tamil Nadu state capital Madras appeared to be another breakthrough in the puzzling murder.

The suspect was likely to be formally charged Thursday on counts of harbouring two other key suspects and on suspicion that he was a co-conspirator, a top SIT source said.

"In all likelihood we will produce him in court Thursday to ask for a remand," the source said.

The man would also be charged under India's anti-terrorist law which provides for a maximum prison term of 20 years, but if convicted of involvement in Mr. Gandhi's murder he could face the death sentence.

SIT sources identified the suspect as the third in command in the intelligence wing of Sri Lanka's Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group, which is suspected of carrying out the killing.

The SIT source added that the 26-year-old Sri Lankan Tamil was picked up two days ago in a quiet police operation in the southern Indian port city, and other reports said he was being held in an undisclosed residential district of the city.

The suspect "is a senior LTTE man," the source said by telephone from Madras, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the spot where Mr. Gandhi died in a massive bomb blast.

The latest detention takes to seven the total number of people held so far by the SIT since Mr. Gandhi's assassination. Three of those formally arrested are Sri Lankans.

SIT officials said the suspect, who had come to Tamil Nadu six months ago, had given shelter for two days to Sivarasan (eds: one name), an LTTE intelligence chief widely believed to be the mastermind, and a woman.

The suspect had identified Mr. Sivarasan and the Sri Lankan woman, Subha, from photographs and was under intensive interrogation, he said, but did not disclose how the detectives found him.

The man "has been here for six months and had come to Tamil Nadu several times earlier ... He was a close contact of the killers," the source said.

A woman with a bomb wired to her body exploded the device after reaching Mr. Gandhi on the pretext of touching his feet in a traditional Hindu gesture of respect in the town of Sriperumpudur.

Other reports said the suspect was related to another arrested Sri Lankan, Robert Payas, who was in charge of passing messages from Jaffna, an LTTE stronghold in the island's northeast, to Mr. Sivarasan and other local rebel bosses.

The central bureau of investigation, which controls the SIT, has announcced a one million rupee (50,000 dollar) reward for Mr. Sivarasan and has launched a massive manhunt to arrest the elusive LTTE member. A similar hunt is also on for Ms. Subha.

Police believe the names of the arrested or missing suspects are aliases as the LTTE rebels are known by several names.

Efforts To Expand Ordnance Factories Discussed

BK2606104491 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] A most modern rifle Ichapur-91 is to be inducted into the Indian Army this year. This was disclosed in New Delhi at a news conference by the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board, Mr. V.N. Bhandarkar. He said the completely indigenously built light rapid fire rifle is far superior to the AK-47. Mr. Bhandarkar said efforts are being made to expand the present 39 ordnance factories under a five-year modernization plan to cater to the electronic devices, missiles and rocket systems. The ordnance factories have started production of the sophisticated ammunition for the Bofors gun, thus saving crores of rupees in foreign exchange. He said India is also exporting explosives and some weapons worth about 10 crore rupees annually to countries like Yugoslavia, Nepal, Mauritius, Tanzania, and some African countries.

Iran

President Denies Change in Revolutionary Stance

LD2606194191 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 26 June, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday refuted claims of changes in Iran's revolutionary stance as "attempts by news imperialism to cover their past mistakes and weakness in the face of our revolution's successes."

In a message to the annual gathering of Islamic associations of Iranian students in America and Europe, the president said "the reality is, the world of arrogance has revised its past erroneous analyses of Iran and the Islamic revolution."

He added, "in such a great reconstruction jihad (struggle), your people have to use the scientific achievements of humanity, and for this reason they are looking forward to your scientific talents while relying on their God-given potentials."

Today, he cautioned, the enemies of Islam and the Iranian people, are resorting to any sort of propaganda campaign to prevent Muslim students from returning home.

The president also urged the Islamic associations to foil the plots and propaganda campaigns of the enemies who see their survival by creating a gulf between students and their Islamic homeland.

President Marks 7 Tir Assassinations Anniversary

LD2706103691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] A seminar on the investigation of the dimensions and consequences of the 7 Tir [28 June] incident ended its proceedings at the Ershad Hoseyniyeh-e Ershad with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to a report by our correspondent, the president, while glorifying the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the 7 Tir disaster, said: After the passing of 10 years since that disaster, its effects and consequences can be clearly discerned through the disgrace of the antirevolutionary grouplets, and the righteousness of the seekers of the path of God.

The president, referring to the history of the animosity and vindictiveness of the antirevolution forces against

the system and the Islamic Republic, said: The antirevolution grouplets, following the realization of their lack of popularity and prestige among the people, tried to topple the revolution and the Islamic rule in Iran by assassinating political and religious personalities and the strong guiding forces of the state. The Islamic Republic's opponents intended to prepare the grounds for the disintegration of the government by inflicting blows against the three executive, judicial, and legislative powers of the state, but the active presence of the people in the arena, and the decisive leadership of his eminence the imam—may God's blessing be upon him—meant that all their attempts at sabotage came to nothing. They only managed to bring about their own disgrace. Their fate was to become mercenaries and spies for the Iraqi regime and fellow travellers of that regime in the suppression and massacre of the Muslim and innocent people of that country.

Finally, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The consequences of the incidents such as that of 7 Tir, are the disgrace of the enemies of the revolution, the depiction of a clear picture of the righteousness and innocence of the people of Iran, and the firm decision of the people and authorities in safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Protesters Attack Velayati's Motorcade in Geneva

NC2606151491 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Geneva, 26 June (AFP)—About 30 members of a group opposed to the Iranian Government attacked Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's motorcade here on Wednesday, smashing the rear window of a limousine and pelting it with eggs.

An aide to Mr. Velayati was slightly injured in the incident, which occurred in the basement parking lot of the Intercontinental Hotel, and six protestors, all Iranian citizens, were arrested, police said.

According to police, the demonstrators belonged to the Mojahedin-e Khalq movement which has been fighting the Iranian regime since the 1979 revolution.

Mr. Velayati, who was reportedly seated in another car, was not injured in the incident, police said, but he called off a scheduled press conference at the hotel.

Police said the battered car carrying Velayati aides was the first to enter the garage and the foreign minister's driver immediately turned around when he saw the protesters.

The demonstrators broke the rear window of the lead limousine carrying Mr. Velayati's aids and threw eggs into the vehicle.

Plainclothes Geneva policemen posted outside the hotel were overpowered by the anti-Iranian slogan-shouting demonstrators as the motorcade arrived.

Mr. Velayati arrived here Tuesday to take part in a conference organized by the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and other issues.

Forum chairman Klaus Schwab regretted that police failed to control the access to the hotel.

Mr. Velayati was expected in Paris for talks with his French counterpart Roland Dumas later Wednesday.

At the Forum meeting he called for security agreements in the Gulf that would only be open to regional nations including Iraq, as well as confidence-building measures.

"The presence of foreign forces has historically proved to breed resentment and thus instability in the recipient countries as well as competition and lack of confidence and tension in the inter-state relations within the region," he said.

"The combination of these two factors in fact leads to regional instability which is contrary to the stated objective of foreign presence."

Mr. Velayati called on Secretary-General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar to actively cooperate in the establishment of a regional security mechanism.

"We have started taking some practical steps, both bilaterally and multilaterally," he announced.

Mr. Velayati said that the strengthening of trade ties among Gulf nations would be a promising element.

He also warned that a settlement of the Palestinian problem would be impossible as long as U.S. policy "coupled with the intransigence and aggressive tendencies of Israel" prevailed.

Two Explosions in Iraq Heard in Iran

LD2606223291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The sound of two successive and relatively strong explosions, which occurred inside Iraq at 1100 today were heard in the border region of Hoveyzeh and its suburbs.

An IRNA report citing informed sources speaks of the possibility that the explosions were caused by official forces' attacks against the opposition forces who have sought refuge in the southern marshlands of that country.

SALAM Examines President's Criticism of Press

NC2306061591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 May 91 p 3

[Unattributed commentary: "Within the Narrow Framework of Freedom!"]

[Text] "The country is free, the rostrums are free, the newspapers are free, and this freedom is to our benefit."

The above sentence is part of the remarks by esteemed President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the first sermon of Tehran's friday prayers. Despite this view and opinion, throughout the two years of his presidency, very few if any articles can be found in the large-circulation newspapers in which the author states, "I do not accept the president's remarks, and say they are not correct and his policy on a certain issue has been unprincipled."

In a number of recent articles in SALAM, meanwhile, we criticized some of the president's remarks. Apparently these comments have enraged and upset him. Therefore, the simple explanation of his remarks that "the country is free, the rostrums are free, and the newspapers are free" is that freedom should be exercised only to praise government policies—hence his ensuing remark that "this freedom is to our benefit!"

But the president's criticism was centered on his remarks at the University of Tehran and his interview with the university students. The gist of the president's answer to a question about freedom of parties and political activities proved he believes that such activities under our present societal conditions are non-beneficial and impossible. Every just reader would deduce the same thing when reading his remarks. The president's opinion was analyzed from different angles. After his recent remarks at the Friday Prayers and the consequences of those remarks, one can conclude that this impossibility of forming parties does not stem from the narrow and restricted framework set for the formation of parties or from the restrictions on those who wish to speak out. One also concludes that the publication of a newspaper like SALAM by those who have accepted with all their might all the principles of the revolution and defend it also faces reactions from the president and others which gradually would make publication impossible.

After analyzing the true meaning behind the impossibility of party and political group activities, we should analyze whether these activities are beneficial or detrimental. There is no reason, logic, or explanation behind remarks that such activities are not useful. The fact that the Friday Prayers once more can serve as a rostrum for explaning the economic situation and other conditions in the country is sound evidence that such activities are useful. The president's main argument is that tiresome arguments dishearten the people and make them lose trust. But this approach toward the people is not appropriate. It manifests his wish that the people, newspapers, parties, and groups only be free and involved to confirm his remarks. But if one tries to deviate just a little from this wish, they will have to face accusations of cooperation with the United States, with the revolution's enemies, with infiltrators, and so on, and articles such as "Insulting the System's Pillars", "Sword", "Suspicious Movement", and "Why Suspicious Movement?!"

SALAM has not entered journalism to write only of successes and victories. Other newspapers write enough about this; and SALAM, too, will not ingore these successes and victories. In addition, criticism will give the people more opportunities to think about our problems and will help them adopt a more penetrating approach toward our problems. On the other hand, those who agree with the policies of the government 100 percent will have more incentives to think more deeply, and instead of all the repetitive words and slogans—which are repeated in the newspapers and from the rostrums morning until night—they will have new words to say.

Unfortunately some comfort-seeking and superficial people are trying to direct this opportunity once again toward repetitive words and slogans. By forging accusations and remarks that have been fed to the people, groups, and public opinion over and over, they seek to promote a monopoly over writing and repeating articles and speeches.

SALAM will not choose such an adverse approach, and the repercussions from the publication of only a few of its editions show that this newspaper will succeed in its objective.

SALAM Discusses Freedom of Press

NC2306192091 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Jun 91 p 2

[Unattributed political commentary: "There Should Be Tolerance"]

[Text] A report came over yesterday's news that would pain the heart of every feeling person. An individual who is said to be the adviser of the Supreme National Security Council addressed students at the university campus and said: "If I had the armed forces behind me, I would close the doors of the newspapers." At first glance, these are merely someone's individual views and SALAM does not respond to the remarks of every individual.

However, we fear that indifference to such a violation of the sanctity of social and human rights and Islamic revolutionary values may have irredeemable consequences. Therefore, to defend the sanctity of law, the revolution, and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran the following points are mentioned:

1. Is our Islamic and revolutionary system in the grip of such anarchy that we need the armed forces to close down a newspaper? Are not such remarks tantamount to an undermining of the credibility of the country's judicial apparatus and its laws? If such laws lack credibility and military force is the first resort in order to confront opposing views, is it possible to claim that our judicial apparatus is capable of vindicating the rights of the oppressed?

2. On principle, what have these newspapers done to merit being tackled by military force?

What has happened to make an individual appointed to the Supreme National Security Council so agitated that he should entertain such thoughts? Should the threshold of tolerance be so low for some that they cannot tolerate this much criticism from those who are in favor of the Imam and the revolution? The propaganda apparatus and the mass media, which can disseminate the views of these people on a much wider scale, are in the hands of these people. We believe the people have enough acumen that after hearing a variety of views they will choose the best.

3. Would those who display such impatience and restlessness against the lovers of the revolution and these nascent newspapers, which have even produced two dozen editions and are threatened with being closed down by the use of military force, show the same inflexibility and rigidity against the enemies of Islam and the revolution?

Experience and the conduct of many has proven that the most contradictory attitude exists regarding the display of tolerance and affection to our own people and strangers; that is, those who cannot tolerate their friends are totally submissive to foreigners.

4. It is a source of regret that a university professor should address a gathering of students and educated persons and belittle freedom of thought and speech in such a way. The fact that he advocates the most reactionary approach to criticism on the part of a protagonist of Islam and the Revolution is also worrying. Even the Bedouin regimes, such as those of the regional sheikhs, would refrain from adopting such an approach.

If such views are allowed to prevail, how will performances be evaluated? What can this preliminary trend be but dictatorship? We are confident that this attitude will be rejected by the Muslim, revolutionary people who have the experience of toppling a 2,500-year old monarchy and those who make such statements are only "exposing themselves" and will not achieve any results.

Clandestine Chastises SALAM, Friday Sermons

NC2106121991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Reason for the People's Distancing Themselves From Friday Prayers, From the SALAM Newspaper's Viewpoint"]

[Excerpts] Among the miscellaneous newspapers and publications connected with the regime, there is a new newspaper called SALAM which is affiliated with the hardline faction of the regime, and is published under the supervision of the cleric Musavi Kho'iniha.

In addition to its comments on the political and social issues in Iran, SALAM contains news reports as well as articles on religious issues, and it publishes the views of the hardline faction clerics on such issues.

Thus SALAM has joined the deluge of other newspapers and publications receiving subsistence for praising the clerics and serving the anti-popular objectives of the regime.

In one of its editions, SALAM has run an article on the Friday congregational prayers containing the reasons behind the lack of public participation in the Friday prayers in the cities, especially in Tehran.

More than anything else, it would be better if we refer to the reasons for the dwindling attendance at the Friday congregations, as mentioned by SALAM's editors. SALAM states them as the following: Some people have genuine excuses, and these are acceptable. But most of them are flimsy excuses. Some are ignorant of the benefits of the Friday papers. [passage omitted]

All the Iranian Muslims are also aware that the mullahs' regime—during the years of their rule—have made the Friday prayer rituals a means of propagating their reactionary views. The reasons mentioned by SALAM regarding the lack of public attendance at Friday prayers also are true to some extent and have reduced attendance somewhat.

Everyone, including the ruling clerics, however, know the actual, fundamental reason for the stagnation in attendance at the Friday prayers. If the Muslim people participate in the Friday prayers, it is not for the approval of the clerics, nor are they inclined to strengthen and perpetuate the regime in this manner.

Those who believe in performing their religious obligations, especially in Kordestan, did so even under the former regime. Now, during the 13 years of the mullahs' rule, which has been imposed on the people in the name of Islam, the fact that the people are slowly turning away from this religious obligation has another reason, not those mentioned by SALAM.

The main reason for the people distancing themselves from the Friday prayers and other religious ceremonies is that they do not wish to project the view that the regime enjoys influence and credibility among the people. The clerics are the ones who—by rigging such displays—wish to make the public in foreign countries believe that whenever they wish they can drag millions of people to the streets and motivate them to listen to their speeches. [passage omitted]

Another reason for the people distancing themselves from the Friday prayers is that the mullahs' regime has transformed the Friday prayers into a politico-ideological ceremony. At these ceremonies, it overtly carries one sermon on religious issues and another devoted to political issues. These sermons, which are long-drawn and tiring, do not contain any logical or beneficial substance.

Most of the religious issues discussed in the sermons are mostly falsehoods which each mullah concocts according to his own disposition and tries to make the people swallow. The context of the political sermons is based mostly on the praise and adulation of the regime's policies, the president, and His Excellency the leader, and so on. [passage omitted]

When the cleric Khamene'i rose from the position of hojjat ol-eslam to the rank of an ayatollah in one night, what trust can the people have in the lying clerics who have been transformed into propagators of the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to fill their own bellies?

The mullahs' regime can only expect the people to pay attention to their wishes when they give the people the freedom to hold political, religious, and cultural ceremonies according to their own wishes.

Without any doubt, until conditions in Iran are completely free and suitable, not only will the Friday prayers market remain in stagnation, but the regime will sink deeper and deeper into isolation with each day, and even newspapers such as SALAM will not be able to justify the regime's isolation by focusing on such issues.

Mohtashami Warns Against Corruption, Dictatorship

NC2306190091 Tehran SALAM in Persian
13 Jun 91 p 14

[Excerpts] In a question-and-answer session at the Martyr Beheshti University Medical School, Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami said that the government should be criticized so it will not be dragged into corruption or dictatorship.

At the beginning of the session, the deputy spoke about the regional crisis and U.S. objectives in the region. He said: Influential countries wish to infiltrate the region by utilizing their influence, not force, so that their humanitarian image is not damaged. They obtained the pretext for an attack on Iraq through this influence and the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on the purging of the fourth majles and how to prevent this, Mr. Mohtashami said: This pessimistic view prevails. We do not believe that a purge will take place. Of course, it can only happen if a law is approved to that effect, similar to the law of the Assembly of Experts. If the election laws are implemented, however, a purge would be impossible unless a new law is passed. That law would have to be passed by the majles themselves and they would not pass a law contrary to the country's best interests. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on the release of Roger Cooper, the deputy said: Prior to Cooper's release there were issues that indicated that behind-the-scenes discussions were underway on his release and that of Kowkabi and on the opening of Iran's doors to Britain and Western countries. Perhaps those who were pursuing these issues had some national interests in mind. It is possible at times, however for one to choose a path that may not be in the country's best interests and may be dangerous.

According to the shari'ah and Islam, Roger Cooper should have been executed.

In answer to a question about inviting the wealthy Iranian people and specialists to return, he said: What is being propounded now is the absorbing of the specialists and wealthy persons at home and abroad. Those who are trying to induce the wealthy Iranians and specialists back are also interested in foreign investment and the affluent people at home. The question is: At what expense are we to absorb the wealthy people? Is one willing to do so out of dependence? The country's intelligentsia is aware that there are specialists in Iran and there is enough capital inside the country to build Iran. Their contention is that, in the long run, we can do what we want to with the capability and specialists within the country. However, they believe that with foreign assistance we can accelerate the process of reconstruction. The question arises: At what expense are you ready to accelerate this process in Iran with foreign assistance? At times this can be done with the preservation of all the gains of the system; however, often the path of reconstruction can only be attained by going back on principles and detracting from the gains of the revolution. We feel that with foreign investment many principles and gains of the revolution will be trampled on and that our country will once again become totally dependent on political beliefs like Chile, Brazil, and Egypt. We cannot accept this, nor could anyone else who is aware of its adverse repercussions. [passage omitted]

The deputy also discussed BAYAN magazine. He said: An analytical economic, political magazine differs from a newspaper and we need the contents of a higher level so that our country receives appropriate food for thought. This fills a major vacuum in our country.

Daily Discusses Need To Continue Imam's Path

NC2306171591 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
12 Jun 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Ahmad Reza Darestani-Farahani: "The Deception of Separating Iran from the Imam's Line"]

[Excerpts] The United States, 12 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, needs to create the impression, within the boundaries of its diplomacy, that the path of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran have become distinct from the path of Imam Khomeyni. They are doing this on the basis of some strategic considerations of which people should be aware.

1. The first reason for this subterfuge is the U.S. defeat in forging ahead with its plots to topple the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the revolution's first decade, the White House has openly beaten the drums of war and aggression against Iran with the objective of toppling the Islamic Republic of Iran. The results of all these efforts are evident by the more than a hundred terrorist groups; rightist and leftist, such as the communists; the hypocrites; the monarchists; and the Iraqi Ba'th Party as well! [passage omitted]

2. The second reason for which the United States is trying to separate the Islamic Revolution from the path of the Imam (peace be upon him) in its overt diplomacy is because of certain international considerations by the White House.

The United States clearly knows that following the decline of the Soviet Union's prestige and the dimming of the luster of Marxism on the international scene, the only power able to level iron-like impediments before U.S. expansionist policies on the international level, in particular in the world of Islam, is the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic movement of Imam Khomeyni.

In fact, the United States is terrified of the thought of a billion armed Muslims worldwide, as Imam Khomeyni favored. The White House fears that in circumstances similar to those of the occupation of Lebanon and Beirut by the Israeli regime and the United States in 1982, it will be confronted with a repetition of the suicide operations by young Muslims who have been armed with the thoughts of Imam Khomeyni!

The reason for the constant clamor by the propaganda loudspeakers of the United States and of the powers of arrogance and Zionism that the Islamic Revolution has become distinct from the path of the Imam is to create the false impression to the Muslims of the world that "the line and path of Imam Khomeyni has come to an end!"

3. The other White House objective in propagating this lie is to convey the impression that the Iranian people's victories following the demise of Imam Khomeyni were due to factors other than the gains of the struggles of that pure and perceptive progeny of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). [passage omitted]

4. By their insistence on this separation, the imperialist and Zionist mass media wish to convince the simple and immature groups that the thesis of the "Velayat-e Faqih" or Khomeyni's plan for an Islamic government was incorrect! [passage omitted]

If allying with the United States were to be considered the criterion for deviation from the Imam's line, it may be stated that every individual, group, or trend in accord with the U.S. propaganda on this issue or who takes actions based on this propaganda is a U.S. advocate and has strayed from the Imam's line!

Besharati, Turkish Ambassador Discuss Relations

NC2106092791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1600 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati held talks with Omer Akbel, Turkey's ambassador to Iran, on the improvement of relations between Iran and Turkey. The meeting took place in Tehran on Tuesday. Ambassador Akbel submitted a report to Besharati on the Cyprus problem and the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, which will be convened in Istanbul in the future. Besharati said that Iran will send a high-level delegation to participate in the meeting and contribute toward its success.

Nicaragua's Kruger Signs Agreement; Departs

NC2206062691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, and Mr. Kruger, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation, signed an economic memorandum of understanding in Tehran. The memorandum specifies how Nicaragua is to repay its debt to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian and Nicaraguan economic officials also decided to continue their discussions in Tehran and in Managua.

Mr. Kruger visited Tehran at the head of an economic-political delegation. He left Tehran this morning and was seen off by Mr. Nurbakhsh.

President on Tragic Situation of Africa

LD2406202491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, the UN assistant secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, this morning. The UN assistant secretary general thanked Iran for its sincere and increasing cooperation with the Third World and African countries. Having submitted a report on the programs of the Economic Commission for Africa, he called for the further consolidation of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the African countries, stressing the important and key role of Iran in this cooperation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his turn remarked that the underdevelopment of the African countries causes our deep regret and concern, and that fundamental changes and serious developments should be made in the economic programs of these deprived people. The President added: We regard as a tragedy the daily growing debts owed by the African people to the wealthy countries, the resulting interest incurred which is beyond the limit of their resources, the fact that the majority of the African countries do not have the necessary capital, resources, and manpower for exploiting their God-given resources, their inability to market what they produce, the fact that often the profit made by such trade goes into the pockets of Western companies and brokers, and the unfortunate growing colonization of Africa.

Concluding his remarks, the president emphasized the Islamic Republic's readiness for further expansion and promotion of cooperation with African countries.

Velayati Sends Anti-Apartheid Messages

NC2606070191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] On the occasion of the international day of solidarity for the South African people's struggle against apartheid, Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati sent separate messages to Nelson Mandela, the vice president of the ANC [African National Congress], and Mokoto the head of the Pan-African Congress.

In these two messages, the foreign minister said that he hoped for the triumph of the South African people in their struggle against apartheid. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its principled beliefs, consistently supports the struggles of your country against racial discrimination and expresses its willingness for all kinds of support and cooperation with the struggling groups.

Officials Discuss Iranian-African Cooperation

NC2606065191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, the UN assistant secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, called for the expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and African countries in the field of development. He met Mr. Mottaki, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs, and extended his appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's sincere cooperation in the implementation of development schemes in African countries.

During this meeting, Mr. Mottaki expressed our country's willingness to strengthen bilateral relations with Third World countries as well as African countries through the economic commissions in Africa.

Nepal

Negali Congress Wins Majority in Upper House

BK2706010491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1719 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Kathmandu, June 26 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress won 31 of 50 seats Wednesday in the National Assembly, Nepal's Upper House, an official announcement on state radio said.

The Communist Party of Nepal (UML) won 16 seats, while the United People's Front took two and the goodwill party won one.

Ten more members are to be appointed Thursday by King Birendra, an official of the parliamentary secretariat said.

Prime Minister Fires, Transfers Bureaucrats

BK2606105891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Kathmandu, June 26 (AFP)—Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has dismissed 13 senior bureaucrats and transferred others to different ministries, a cabinet source said Wednesday.

Mr. Koirala's action follows a judicial report recommending strong action against civil servants and ministers of the deposed government who are suspected of having committed excesses while in power.

Among the high-ranking officials sacked was former Secretary for Public Works and Transport Mukti Prasad Kafle, who has been placed in a reserve pool in the Ministry of General Administration for the last few months, the cabinet source said.

Likewise, former Acting Secretary for Health Basu Dev Pradhan, who was also in the reserve pool, was dismissed.

Four former zonal commissioners, the director-general of the Department of Irrigation, the general manager of Nepal Oil Corp and the former director-general of the Department of Mining and Geology were also dismissed.

The source said a list was being drawn up of executives of state-run corporations who are due to get the ax. Other managers are being considered for dismissal as well, the source said.

Political analysts said former Interim Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's lax stance toward officials of the former Panchayat government had angered the public and he was consequently voted out of power in general elections last month.

The one-party Panchayat Government was brought down by public unrest in April 1990 and Mr. Bhattarai was appointed the country's leader in the interim before elections.

The Nepali Communist Party's United Marxist-Leninist Faction has demanded stern action against corrupt and inefficient officials of the old regime. The electorate of Kathmandu voted Mr. Bhattarai out of office and replaced him with NCP-UML General Secretary Madan Bhandari.

Mr. Bhandari defeated Mr. Bhattarai by a slim margin of about 751 votes, forcing the interim prime minister from his post.

Political analysts here said Mr. Koirala's action would help silence the pro-leftist Nepal Civil Servants Organization which threatens to strike next month for demands including transport, housing and education allowances.

Mr. Koirala has appealed to civil servants, teachers and the general public to wait one year before taking action so the government could have time to settle their grievances.

Pakistan

Police Hold Over 100 Opposition Leaders in Sindh

BK2706095691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Karachi, June 27 (AFP)—Police detained more than 100 opposition leaders, including two provincial ministers, in the city of Jacobabad in southern Sindh Province for carrying illegal arms, officials and party sources here said Thursday.

The detainees were returning late Wednesday from an opposition candidate Abdul Hafiz Pirzada's rally for Saturday's by-elections in the Jacobabad Constituency.

The contest has become a sensitive issue for both the Sindh government and the opposition, backed by former premier Benazir Bhutto.

Sources from Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said the people detained included Mr. Pirzada—secretary general of the left leaning Pakistan National Party (PNP)—PNP Chief Bizen Bizenjo, several PPP deputies and senators as well as the presidents of the Sindh and Balochistan chapters of the PPP.

They were released after several hours, but two ministers in Balochistan's provincial government, Sardar Sanaullah Zehri and his brother Israrullah Zehri, were remanded in custody, they said.

Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali said Wednesday that a police raid at Mr. Sardar Sanaullah Zehri's Karachi residence had resulted in the seizure of two kilogrammes (4.4 pounds) of heroin and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

The Zehri Brothers are PNP supporters.

The Sindh government's information secretary, Saleem Gul, confirming the incident, said police stopped the convoy to search for illegal weapons as part of election security measures.

He said the search yielded some weapons but no details were given.

He stressed no arrests were made.

Ms. Bhutto, who is to address a public meeting in Jacobabad in the afternon has condemned the police action. The administration is creating obstructions to holding the by elections in free and fair manner, she said.

Sindh Chief Minister Denies Plot To Kill Bhutto

BK2606162791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Karachi, June 26 (AFP)—The government of Pakistan's Sindh Province denied Wednesday an opposition allegation that it planned to kill former prime minister Benazir Bhutto during a current by-election in northern Sindh.

"We have taken every possible measure to provide security to Ms. Bhutto and such accusations are baseless," Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali told reporters.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had accused Mr. Ali on Tuesday of planning a "murderous attack" on Ms. Bhutto during her visit to the Jacobabad area in the north of the province.

Ms. Bhutto went ahead and began the tour Wednesday to support Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, who is contesting the by-election in the Jacobabad constituency.

Ms. Bhutto, who decided only recently to support Mr. Pirzada, said Mr. Ali's administration planned to "rig" the election, but Mr. Ali strongly denied it.

"On the contrary, I fear that Ms. Bhutto's party may try to stage a drama of (an) attack on her during the campaign, to malign us," Mr. Ali said.

"I have proof of PPP's involvement in terrorist activities," he said, reiterating an earlier allegation and adding that the government has arrested 67 PPP activists allegedly trained in India.

Mr. Ali also dimissed as undemocratic Ms. Bhutto's demand that he step down to make way for a "neutral" chief minister.

"I was elected by the provincial assembly, which alone could take away (the) chief ministership" he said.

Faced with a serious law and order problem which has resulted in the arrest of more than 1,000 people—most of them PPP members, the party has said—Mr. Ali vowed not to back down.

"Is it a sin to arrest criminals, murderers and kidnappers?" He asked. "I will deal with them with an iron hand."

The PPP has denied allegations of terrorist activities, saying groundless charges have been brought to hurt the party politically.

Meanwhile, the Sindh Government said it had detained on weapons charges several people en route to Jacobabad to help in Mr. Pirzada's election campaign.

The by-election in Jacobabad assumed additional importance after Ms. Bhutto announced her support of Mr. Pirzada. He has said he could become the next chief minister of the troubled province.

Mr. Pirzada is said to have strong establishment contacts because of his in-laws' close relationship with the family of Pakistan's former military ruler, General Ziaul Haq, who toppled Ms. Bhutto's father's government in 1977 and executed him in 1979.

Ms. Bhutto's support for Mr. Pirzada, who had been "persona non-grata" to PPP workers, marks a major shift in her party's strategy in the wake of setbacks in last year's elections, observers here said.

Sri Lanka

Nine Tamil Civilians 'Massacred' During Raid

BK2606122891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Nine Tamil civilians were massacred on Monday [24 June] in the farming village of (Weligahakandia) in the southern border of the Batticaloa District. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the victims had been taken into a nearby jungle and hacked to death. A woman survivor, (Dayavati Wijeratne), who managed to escape with grievous injuries, fled to thick jungle and arrived at dawn yesterday at the (Tellipulamali) army detachment and reported the gruesome terrorist killings. She said the massacre at (Weligahakandia), a Tamil village, was the result of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suspecting the villagers of having informed the security forces of an LTTE camp at (Weligahahande). It was raided by the government troops on June the 5th.

Meanwhile, six LTTE terrorists were killed by the security forces on Monday in separate incidents in the north and the east. Four terrorists were killed last night at Weli Wewa and two at (Tottigalle). An attack by the LTTE on the security forces camp at Badulla Junction on the border of the Amparai-Batticaloa districts was repulsed on Monday. Terrorists also fired small arms and mortars on the security force camps at Elephant Pass in Jaffna and Thandikulam at Vavuniya.

Spokesman Refuses Comment on Suicide Bombing

BK2706085691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Colombo, June 27 (AFP)—The Tamil tiger guerrillas have declined to either claim or deny responsibility for the suicide bombing of Sri Lanka's main military headquarters, a Tamil newspaper reported here Thursday.

A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the group would not comment on responsibility for last Friday's destruction of the military's operational headquarters here—but expressed satisfaction at the strike, the VEERAKESARI newspaper said.

VEERAKESARI quoted the LTTE's Paris-based spokesman, Lawrance Tilakar, as saying the Tigers were "satisfied" with the attack because it destroyed the centre from while operations were planned against his organisation as well as Tamil and Sinhalese civilians.

The blast killed 10 soldiers and 11 civilians.

Meanwhile, officials said a curfew in the stricken northeastern region was relaxed Thursday as a lull continued in the civil war in which Tamil guerrillas are fighting to separate the northeastern, majority-Tamil part of Sri Lanka from the predominantly Sinhalese country.

A military spokesman said there appeared to have been a reduction in the scale of fighting, except for small-scale attacks on security forces and quick retaliatory action against the militants.

Gunmen believed to be from the LTTE ambushed a military foot patrol in north-central Anuradhapura District Wednesday, wounding one soldier, the spokesman said.

He said troops returned the guerrillas' fire, but rebel losses were not immediately known.

Some 7,365 people have died since fresh fighting broke out in June 1990, after a breakdown in talks between the government and the LTTE.